‘CNMI’s tourism industry still awaiting return to normalcy’ PAGE 6
COVID-19 vaccine booster available for children aged 5-11. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 102

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY MAY 24, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CCC revocation hearing on hold

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC’s request for a temporary restraining order prohibiting the Commonwealth Casino Commission from moving forward with its revocation hearing today to decide whether or not to revoke the casino investor’s exclusive casino license.

» Court OK’s TRO vs CCC revocation hearing on IPI’s casino license

IPI and its sister company, Best Sunshine International Ltd., asked the federal court yesterday for preliminary injunctive relief that sought to preserve the status quo or prohibit the CCC from pursuing the revocation of IPI’s license, pending a determination of the parties’ rights and liabilities by an arbitral tribunal—defined as a panel of one or more adjudicators tasked to resolve a

See CCC on Page 4

Torres plans to appeal decision in JGO lawsuit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has notified the CNMI Supreme Court that it will be appealing Superior Court judge pro tempore Timothy Bellas’ recent decision dismissing the governor’s case against the House of Representatives’ Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Torres’ counsel, Gilbert Birnbrich, filed a notice of appeal with the CNMI Supreme Court last week, just a day after the issuance of

See TORRES on Page 4

HOUSE VISIT

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) answers the questions of fifth grade students from William S. Reyes Elementary School in the House chamber yesterday morning. Some other House members in the photo also answered the students’ questions. About 100 WSR Social Studies students visited the Legislature to learn more about three branches of the CNMI government.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Military exercises to take place on Saipan, Tinian

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs is informing the public of the upcoming Joint Forces Field Training Exercise 2022, scheduled from June 5 to June 13, 2022.

This year’s exercise activities will occur on the islands of Saipan and Tinian. Joint Forces participants include the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Marines Corps., and the U.S. Air Force with 300 personnel expected to be on Tinian and 120 personnel on Saipan.

Saipan Training Exercise

The U.S. Air Force will conduct airlift and refueling operations at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International, while the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Group will conduct maritime base training on watercraft vessels and dive operations in the Saipan port and surround-

See MILITARY on Page 4

Man in NYD stabbing gets seven-year prison sentence

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a seven-year prison sentence on a man involved in the stabbing death of another man last New Year’s Day.

Kong Ling Yang, 34, pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter before Su-

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The street named Laiguan Avenue in San Antonio is now the “Tan Amalian Badu Avenue.”
Page 11

ASIA
A ferry carrying more than 130 people catches fire in the Philippine, killing at least seven.
Page 13

LIFE & STYLE
Attorneys for Amber Heard try to portray Johnny Depp as a jealous and drunken abuser.
Page 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Despite limited funds, MVA cites accomplishments in Q1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the Marianas Visitors Authority had limited funding in the first quarter of fiscal year 2022 due to the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it managed to organize events to gradually restart its programs and activities, according to MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

In MVA's first quarter report for fiscal year 2022 submitted to the Legislature Thursday, Iakopo said these events include the Marianas Tourism Education Council and MVA Educational Outreach program, "A Night at the Park," Saipan Katori Shrine Remote Ceremony and Japanese Autumn Festival, and Christmas in the Marianas.

Iakopo

Public Law 22-08, or the CNMI Budget Act for fiscal year 2022, suspended certain earmarked funds, including MVA's share of the Hotel and Occupancy Tax. Iakopo said MVA was provided an allocation of just $2.01 million from local funds and $1.09 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

With a total of $3.11 million minus 1% for the Office of the Public Auditor fee, MVA's operations budget in fiscal year 2022 was just $3.08 million, she said.

For the first quarter, as of Dec. 31, 2021, total actual expenditures for personnel and all other costs amounted to $692,782. This left a remaining budget of $2.38 million for personnel and all other costs.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, the grand total for actual expenditures for advertising and marketing was $145,132. This left a balance of $642,786 for advertising and marketing for the fiscal year.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and MVA Educational Outreach program was held in October 2021 to educate high school students, including those in Tinian and Rota, about the importance of tourism. The program's theme this year is "Safe Travel and Marianas Tourism."

"A Night at the Park" was held at the Sugar King Park on Oct. 31, 2021. MVA collaborated with the Saipan Mayor's Office in hosting a Halloween night.

The Saipan Katori Shrine Remote Ceremony and Japanese Autumn Festival was held on Nov. 20, 2021. MVA assisted the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas by providing tents and portable toilets at Paseo de Marianas and Sugar King Park.

Christmas in the Marianas in December 2021 was eventually cancelled due to increasing number of COVID-19 cases but planning already got started. Iakopo said that, even with the cancellation, MVA proceeded with decorating the Garapan Fishing Base with ornaments to show the holiday spirit.

Iakopo also noted that the Grotto reopened to the public this year after over a year of being closed due to the renovations. The reopening was made possible through the Public-Private Partnership formed under the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and five other private companies that adopted the site.

She said the Grotto has been given a much-needed facelift, with its steps and railings fixed, its viewing deck resurfaced and revamped, its restrooms cleaned, and a new Grotto sign was affixed.

WEIGHTLIFTING
NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022
Lift bigger. Live stronger.
Weightlifting has been a staple of every Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games sports program since the inception of the Games, except for the Pacific Mini Games in Norfolk Island in 2001. Traditionally, only Athletics draws more entries by country than Weightlifting, which is hugely popular in every corner of the Pacific as it capitalizes on the natural strength of Pacific islands people. Normally around 20 of the 22 member countries will enter the Weightlifting. The Pacific Games Weightlifting competitions are very often a launching pad for the best lifters into the Olympic Games and World Championships where lifters from the Pacific do very well. At present, the strongest Weightlifting nations are Samoa and Papua New Guinea, while Fiji plus Micronesia's own Nauru and Kiribati are regular winners as well. At the most recent Pacific Games in 2019, 10 of the 22 member countries won medals, as did Australia and New Zealand who were invited in all the weight categories.
GAME IS ON! June 17 - 25, 2022
Participating Countries 15
Competition Venue Marianas High School Gymnasium
Competition Schedule 20 - 24 Jun 2022
Number of Athletes 131
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
*STOCK PHOTO ONLY
www.northernmarianas2022.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCC enforcement hearing today cancelled

The Commonwealth Casino Commission's enforcement hearing scheduled for today, May 24, 2022 at 10am is cancelled until further notice. The cancellation is due to the U.S. District Court's temporary restraining order to cease and desist from proceeding with enforcement action 2021-001-005. We apologize for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Tottotville, Koblerville

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Tottotville, and Koblerville from St. Jude Church to the ABCD Market today, May 24, 2022, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

This will allow CUC operations personnel to repair a main service lateral on Exploring Drive in Lower Dandan. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates fhttps://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: **SAIPAN:**
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022***.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Stay Connected

Payment Notice

We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential, business, or government account please make payment by **Tuesday, May 24, 2022.**

Our Kada Dia Payment Center is open Monday through Friday, from 11 am to 3:30 pm for faster service. For your health and safety, we encourage you to wear a mask when you visit.

You may also pay online at **store.ite.net/onlinebilling** or by calling Customer Care at **670-682-4ITE (4483)**.

ite.net itecnmi itecnmi

IT&E

Da'ok Academy graduates 28

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Da'ok Academy's graduation last Wednesday saw 28 seniors conferred their high school diplomas, with family, friends, and dignitaries in attendance at the Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria.

The student who demonstrated leadership traits and received the Governor's Leadership Award was Lance Ray Repeki, who also received the Trail Blazer Award, the Helping Hand Award, the Shark Leader Award, and A Honor Roll in Language Arts.

The recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Award was Cleman Mikko Techur.

The Outstanding Female Graduate Recognition Award was presented by the Women's Affair's Office to Norintha John.

The "Against All Odds Recognition," which was Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's special award, was presented to Taldon Langu.

The Mayor's Award and Service Learning Award was presented to Herman Sablan.

The recipient of the Principal's Award was Jesse James Pua who demonstrated leadership and was an active peer model.

The Resilience Award was presented to Isa Marie Cabrera.

The recipient of the Shark Award was Jesse James Castro, who demonstrated leadership and was an active peer core model.

Additionally, four of its graduates received the Public School System's highest scores in Achieve 3000, which is an online coaching tool that aims to improve students' reading skills. The recipients were John, who had the highest score in March and April; Langu, who had the highest score in April; Keith Joevin Aldan, who had the highest score in February; and Koyuki Ichikawa, who had the highest score in May.

LEIGH GASES

The Mayor's Award was presented to Herman Sablan and is seen posing with his plaque and Da'ok principal Christine Tudela and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada.

LEIGH GASES

After receiving the Governor's Leadership Award plaque, Lance Ray Repeki poses with Da'ok Academy principal Christine Tudela and a representative from the Governor's office.

LEIGH GASES

The recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Award, Cleman Mikko Techur, poses with Da'ok principal Christine Tudela and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios.

LEIGH GASES

The recipient of the Outstanding Female Graduate Award is Northina John, who is seen posing with Da'ok principal Christine Tudela and Shirley Ogumoro from the Women's Affairs Office.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Cafeteria Workers (Supervisor) – BP2022-01
Saipan, CNMI

Four (4) Cafeteria Workers (Supervisor),
Allied Construction Corporation dba: Barny's Pizza., Saipan, CNMI

Supervise daily cafeteria operation which includes being the head cashier, making sure that the contractual obligations and standards are being met. Supervisor will also be the HACCP head of the service location. Monitor performances of service staff and coordination with the school administration, staff teacher and parents. The supervisor will also be in charge of inventory and supplies requisition, see to it that maintenance of cafeteria and surroundings is clean and sanitized condition at all times. Ensure that the food is of the highest quality possible, and that food is stored in a safe and sanitary manner. Answer student and teacher complaints. Report any shortages to the person in charge of ordering or in some cases, requisition them yourself.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate, plus 12 months experience in operation with food preparation and serving a minimum of 500 capacity.

Salary: $ 9.59 per hour.

Workplace: TEXAS ROAD, BARNYS PIZZA BUILDING Susupe Village Saipan, CNMI.

To apply: Please send your resume to Barny's Pizza, PMB 55 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to **alliedspn@gmail.com** Job Number – **BP2022-01**

Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
Dentistry
SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC
Celebrating 50 years of providing exceptional care since 1972
CELEBRATING 50th Anniversary
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
providing exceptional care since 1972
Operating Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Contact Us
Phone: (670)234-6323
Fax: (670)234-0521
Email: info@saipansdadental.com
CELEBRATION CALENDAR
OPEN HOUSE
May 27 (Friday) 8:00 am to 12 noon
• Get a chance to win door prizes.
• Each visitor, kids and tots included, receives a giveaway.
• Refreshments will be served.
SABBATH PROGRAM
May 28 (Saturday) 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
• Fellowship meal will be served.
FREE CLINIC
May 29 (Sunday) 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
• Open to those with NO dental insurance.
• Services include extraction, cleaning, filling and oral cancer screening.

‘There are people who have never been in CNMI, but allowed to vote’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) emphasized yesterday the need for the Commonwealth Election Commission to look into the absentee voting process, claiming that he knows of some people that have never been in the CNMI yet were allowed to vote in the past elections.

Speaking during the Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations’ public hearing on the appointment of Police Lt. Jesus S. Cepeda to serve as a CEC commissioner representing Saipan, Hocog urged Cepeda and other election commissioners to look into the absentee process for the coming Nov. 8 general election.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police Lt. Jesus S. Cepeda is sworn in during the Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations public hearing yesterday on his appointment to serve as Commonwealth Election Commission commissioner representing Saipan. The Senate has yet to confirm Cepeda’s appointment.

He said that some of these absentee voters have “never [been here; not even once. This is a very serious situation that people are experiencing here.”

Hocog, who is the vice chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, said he wants to see that people that exercise their voting right in their senatorial districts speak loudly and not those people that are staying outside the Commonwealth that are overriding people’s decisions.

“Let me say this. For those people that are given the right to continue to vote outside the CNMI, they are not suffering like the people that are staying here and voting for change,” Hocog said.

The senator asked CEC to consider putting the matter on their agenda at their next board meeting.

Hocog said the CEC should look into the continuous residency and domiciliary requirements, whether those people should be given continuous rights to vote when they have abandoned their domiciliary and residency in the CNMI.

He said it is unfair that people who are staying and experiencing the difficulties in their senatorial districts and exercising their right to vote are being trumped by people residing outside the Commonwealth that have never expressed an interest to return.

Hocog said these absentee voters have been receiving all kinds of federal assistance from the state where they live.

“…In my opinion [this] is very unfair,” he said.

Hocog extended his appreciation to Cepeda for accepting Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres’ appointment to serve as election commissioner.

Hocog said he is confident that with his 26 years of experience at DPS, Cepeda will make decisions responsibly and will do the right thing in the right way.

Cepeda said that serving as an election commissioner will be new to him, but with the guidance of CEC officials and staff, he wants to do his best for the best interest of the commission and the public.

CEC supported Cepeda’s appointment. No one opposed his appointment.

If Cepeda is confirmed by the Senate, there will be three commissioners representing Saipan, two Rota commissioners and one Tinian commissioner.

CEC executive director Kayla Igitol said with five commissioners at present there is a quorum.

Igitol said there are two more vacant commissioner’s positions for Saipan and one for Tinian.

MAN

From Page 1

perior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Friday and was sentenced to an imprisonment term of seven years.

According to Camacho’s order, Kong is sentenced to the full seven years but will only serve the first two years and nine months day-for-day without possibility of parole or early release. The remainder of his sentence will be suspended but may be imposed if he violates any CNMI law.

In addition, the court also granted Kong credit for the 140 days he has already served in prison while awaiting trial.

Aside from the sentence, Kong was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $8,634 to the heirs of his victim, Li SongZhi, as other court fees and probationary fees.

Following his release from prison, Kong will be placed under probation for three years where he must strictly abide by CNMI laws and the court’s release conditions.

Kong was immediately remanded back to Department of Corrections custody to begin serving his sentence.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, Kong was initially charged with second degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. It was later changed to just one count of manslaughter as part of the plea deal.

The difference between murder, at any degree, and manslaughter is the sentence. A person convicted of murder can be sentenced up to a lifetime in prison while manslaughter is not more than 10 years.

In addition, murder is defined as the crime of killing an individual with malice while manslaughter is the crime of killing an individual without malice.

Court documents stated that Kong stabbed Li multiple times following an altercation between their girlfriends.

In a statement from Kong at the scene, he stated that he had been drinking with Li, when Li’s girlfriend started “talking bad” to Kong’s girlfriend, which led to the physical altercation between the two men.

In a follow up interview with Kong at around 6:40pm on Jan. 1, he said he got angry when Li was assaulting him, causing him to reach for the pocket knife in his right back pocket. He claims he decided to stop after two stabs after seeing Li’s shirt soaked in blood.

CCC

From Page 1

dispute between two parties through arbitration.

IPI and Best Sunshine also sought a temporary restraining order to temporarily suspend the CCC’s revocation hearing that was set to begin today.

Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted IPI’s requested TRO around 5pm yesterday, stopping the CCC from proceeding with the revocation process.

One of the main reasons the TRO was granted, Manglona said, was that the potential harm to IPI and Best Sunshgine should the court decline their motion for a TRO greatly outweighs any harm that the CCC may incur.

Manglona noted that the plaintiffs anticipate receiving $150 million in financing before the end of May to make payments due to the Commonwealth Casino Commission and other creditors and to resume its operations.

“Any revocation of IPI’s license following the CCC’s hearing scheduled for May 24, 25 puts [IPI] at risk of this much needed capital infusion. Therefore the balance of hardships tips decidedly in plaintiffs’ favor,” the order stated.

In addition, Manglona said, plaintiffs have raised serious questions going to the merits of requiring arbitration pursuant to the Casino License Agreement.

Manglona also stated in her order that if the court declines to grant a temporary restraining order, plaintiffs will incur immediate and irreparable injury because plaintiffs will be deprived of their contractual right to assert a *force majeure* defense of the Casino License Agreement and a procedural right to the dispute resolution process that allows for arbitration and the opportunity to submit the arbitrator’s decision to the Commonwealth Superior Court.

Lastly, the public interest would be served by the issuance of a temporary restraining order, she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CCC is seeking the complete revocation of IPI’s license because it has failed to comply with the requirement to lift its suspension, like paying over $30 million in fees.

“They are technically legally suspended by the CCC, and it has been upheld by the CNMI Superior Court. Now, they’re challenging us in Supreme Court for the suspension order. Now, while that’s in play, I’m seeking revocation. This is a further action to the suspension because they couldn’t remedy the suspension order. When we suspended them, we said, ‘You need to pay all the regulatory fees, the casino license fee, and we need you to pay that immediately to [lift] your suspension’ but that hasn’t happened. That’s why I filed five more enforcement actions against them, because they did not live up to the suspension order,” said CCC executive director Andrew Yeom in a previous interview.

IPI’s exclusive license was suspended back in May 2021 and the casino operator was given six months to pay both the $15.5 million casino license fee, the $3.1 million regulatory fee, and a $6.6 million fine to lift the suspension.

TORRES

From Page 1

Bellas’ order, which supported the JGO’s motion that sought to have Torres’ case dismissed.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, one of the main reasons Bellas granted the JGO’s motion was because he determined that the committee can invoke legislative immunity and that the subpoena it issued to summon Torres—which Torres had defied—falls within the “legitimate legislative sphere” protected by the Speech or Debate Clause.

Bellas explained that it is plain from the face of the complaint and the matters taken under judicial notice that the JGO was acting “within the sphere of legitimate legislative activity,” and the court need not inquire into the committee’s motives.

“The subpoena covers seven subject areas that all relate to the governor’s expenditure of public funds and use of government personnel and resources. Not only are these topics ones ‘on which legislation could be had,’ there is in fact pending legislation relating to more than one of these expenditures,” Bellas said.

As for Torres’ argument that legislative immunity under the Speech and Debate Clause is not applicable to the JGO as a whole, Bellas said because the clause’s central purpose is to provide legislative independence, the JGO may invoke the clause as a whole.

“The court reads the language of Article II, Section 12 of the NMI Constitution broadly to effectuate its purpose of protecting legislative independence. The court finds no compelling reason to limit the protections of the Speech or Debate Clause to individual legislators only, and therefore the House standing committee may invoke legislative immunity as an affirmative defense from suit,” he said.

The court also found that Torres, in his capacity as governor of the CNMI, is not immune to subpoenas issued by the legislative branch as he previously argued.

In related news, Torres still faces criminal charges pursuant to alleged illegal first-class travel paid for by local funds.

A hearing on the criminal charges will be held today at 3pm.

MILITARY

From Page 1

ing waters.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Detachment will be conducting land-based command and control activities with Tactical Military Vehicles, which include four oversize semi-trucks with simulated 55’ Green High Vehicle Target onboard flatbed system platform.

In coordination with the Department of Public Safety, convoy operations will commence from June 5 to June 13, 2022, with DPS escort support while the HVTs are traveling on public roads. The HVTs are ***not*** live missiles but are replica models made of tin sheets. This exercise activity is limited to communication testing operation.

Members of the public are advised not to be alarmed. The HVTs are only simulations acting as opposing forces. This piece of the training activities is intended to refine defense communication capabilities.

Static displays of the HVTs will be on Saturday, June 4, 2022, to provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about HVT capabilities and the NSWC’s naval technologies in support of naval surface fleet with integration, testing, evaluation, and lifecycle engineering support. For more information on the static display event, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs at (670) 483-3278, or by email at glenna.sakisat.palacios@gov.mp.

Tinian Training Exercise

The Joint Forces training exercises on Tinian will involve maritime operations at Tinian Harbor, Logistical Hub Staging activities at the San Jose Port, refueling supply point operation at the Tinian West Field while cargo airdrop delivery systems will occur on North Tinian Drop Zone.

The Joint Forces Field Training Exercises on Saipan and Tinian are coordinated in advance with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Public Safety, CNMI agencies, and the Tinian Mayor’s Office. The Naval Facilities Pacific Engineering Command and Joint Region Marianas regional environmental coordinator are coordinating with the CNMI for full enforcement of biosecurity measures on both islands.

The expeditionary training activities are focused on maritime and littoral security in the Pacific region. This year’s exercises incorporate joint aviation, maritime, and multi-domain activities in an austere and distributed environment.

For more information about Joint Field Training Exercises, contact Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at CJRMPAO@fe.navy.mil or at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

Kilili: CNMI has been awarded $51.6M since Infrastructure Law was enacted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the six months since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was enacted, the Marianas has already been awarded a sum of $51.6 million, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that, according to a White House announcement last Monday, included in this allocation are five environmental and transportation projects that are particularly important as the CNMI works to revive the tourism industry.

According to the White House, just six months ago, President Joe Biden forged consensus and compromise among Democrats, Republicans, and independents to deliver the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which the White House described as a historic investment in America's crumbling infrastructure. It will rebuild roads and bridges, replace lead pipes, help provide high-speed internet to every family in America, deliver cheaper and cleaner energy to households and businesses, and produce concrete results that change people's lives for the better.

Already at this early stage, over $110 billion has been announced and is headed to states, tribes, territories, and local governments, with over 4,300 specific projects identified for funding, the White House said.

Sablan said $20,922,950 is allocated to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to supplement the Kagman Watershed Project.

Sablan said $6,017,151 in Airport Infrastructure Project funds is allocated to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Of that amount, $3.873,026 is for Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, $1,026,751 is for the Tinian International Airport, $1,007,374 is for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport in Rota, and $110,000 is for the Pagan airstrip.

"As the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continues to be implemented and deliver results for our country, I look forward to seeing funds provided to the Marianas to help build our roads, modernize our ports, expand high-speed broadband, and improve our drinking water systems," Sablan said.

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on May 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from April 26, 2022

II. Public Comment (s)

III. Committee Reports
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs

IV. Administrator's Report

V. Chairman's Report

VI. Old Business
1. Spring 2022 Application Status

VII. New Business
1. Fall 2022 Application Status
2. Department of Corrections – Request for Financial Assistance
3. Academy of Customs Biosecurity – Request for Financial Assistance

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Miscellaneous Matters

X. Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Accountant – ACE2022-01
Saipan, CNMI

Two (2) Accountants, Ace Professional Corporation, Saipan, CNMI

Consolidate and Prepares company monthly departmental Financial Statements and clients compilation of financial statements in conformity with general accepted accounting principle (GAAP) acceptable to United States, prepare company budget and monitoring budget versus actual expenses. Performs General Ledger posting, reconciliation, prepare balance sheet schedule on a monthly basis, such as preparation of Fixed assets lapsing schedule, pre-payments, accruals of expenses. Review and compiles Financial Statements for various individual and corporate clients in conformity with auditors requirements. Review and in-charge in the calculation of CNMI and federal government taxes on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Review and or prepares individual and corporate income tax returns for the Company and clients. Responds to CNMI Revenue and IRS letters and prepares necessary documents needed to correct and to comply with tax filing. Prepares recommendations to the top management, with regards to meeting company budget, cost cutting measures, and help in the implementation of company set policies. Report the company's result of operations to the Board of Directors.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business, Accounting, Finance, or related field, foreign educational equivalent accepted, plus 12 months experience in general accounting and with Knowledge in Peachtree Accounting Software, Peachtree Accounting Payroll, Non-profit Financial Accounting, CNMI and Federal Tax.

Salary: $ 15.29 per hour.

Workplace: CDA Building 3rd Floor Unit#309 Beach Road San Jose, Saipan CNMI.

To apply: To apply: Please send your resume to Ace Professional Corporatipon, PO BOX 500507, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to psgacepc@gmail.com Job Number – **ACE2022-01**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

General Manager – HS2022-01
Tinian, CNMI

General Manager, HUANG SHUN CORPORATION - Tinian, CNMI.

Responsible in the overall management of Hotel, Bar & Restaurant, Retail Store, Wholesale, Poker Gameroom, Farming, and other business operation. Review financial statements, sales or activity reports, or other performance data to measure productivity or goal achievement or to identify areas needing cost reduction or program improvement. Direct and coordinate activities of businesses or departments concerned with the production, pricing, sales, or distribution of products. Direct administrative activities directly related to making products or providing services. Prepare staff work schedules and assign specific duties. Monitor suppliers to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed goods or services within budgetary limits. Direct or coordinate financial or budget activities to fund operations, maximize investments, or increase efficiency. Establish or implement departmental policies, goals, objectives, or procedures in conjunction with board members, organization officials, or staff members. Perform personnel functions such as selection, training, or evaluation. Plan or direct activities such as sales promotions that require coordination with other department managers. Set prices or credit terms for goods or services based on forecasts of customer demand. Manage the movement of goods into and out of production facilities to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, or sustainability of operations. Perform sales floor work, such as greeting or assisting customers, stocking shelves, or taking inventory.n Develop or implement product-marketing strategies, including advertising
campaigns or sales promotions. Recommend locations for new facilities or oversee the remodeling or renovating of current facilities. Implement or oversee environmental management or sustainability programs addressing issues such as recycling, conservation, or waste management. Direct non-merchandising departments of businesses, such as advertising or purchasing.

Minimum Requirements: High School Graduate, foreign educational equivalent accepted, plus 24 months experience in general operation. Able to manage multiple businesses such as retail store, gameroom poker, rental properties, farming and manufacturing.

Salary: $ 21.00 per hour.

Workplace: U-Save Market Building, Lot #014 T 22, San Jose Village, Tinian 96952 CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to Huang Shun Corporation, PO BOX 520335, Tinian, MP 96952 or e-mail to tinianpoz@hotmail.com Job Advertisement Number – HS2022-01

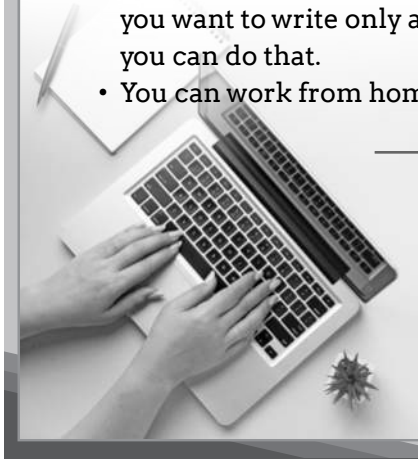
Wanted: CORRESPONDENTS

Saipan Tribune is looking for correspondents who will be assisting the newspaper with its news or sports coverages, or will assist the Advertising Section with advertorial write-ups.

Correspondents are paid per word and photo, so you essentially control your own time and the subject of your coverage.

The only requirements are good writing skills and flexibility in work hours. Knowledge in creative writing, newswriting, or sports writing is a plus.

Advantages:
- This can be a side gig. You can continue working at your main job and be a correspondent on the side. Additional income! Yay!
- You control your work hours.
- You choose which story to write about.
- You can focus on a specific subject if you wish. For example, if you want to write only about baseball or the environment, you can do that.
- You can work from home. No need to time-in or out at the office.



For those who would like to apply, you may email your application letter and résumé to editor@saipantribune.com or give them to Mia Carreon at HR on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. A sample of your previous written work will be helpful.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 51000 C.K, Saipan, MP 96950

VOUCHER ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL – AGED CHILDREN

PURPOSE: To address disaster related needs and service delivery in the form of voucher allowance for eligible school-aged children who were directly displaced by Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu.

Funding for the CSBG- DS Voucher Program will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis for:

Saipan	–	100 Families
Tinian	–	40 Families
Rota	–	40 Families

**If there is remaining balance after 180 families, additional eligible families may qualify.*

Eligible items:

- Hygienical Supplies
- School Supplies
- Household Cleaning Supplies
- Cooking & Kitchen Supplies (food preparation)
- Clothing & Footwear
- Beddings

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must meet income eligibility requirements.
- Must provide documented proof of financial hardships due to Typhoon
- Manghkut or Super Typhoon Yutu.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or an Eligible Alien.
- Was residing in the CNMI during Typhoon
- Manghkut or Super Typhoon Yutu.
- Currently living in FEMA tent, with neighbors, family members or friends as result of the disaster.
- Currently living in the CNMI.
- Child(ren) are enrolled in School Year 2021-2022.

Application period will remain open from May 18th to August 31st, 2022, or as soon as the funds are depleted, whichever comes first.

Application package can be picked up & submitted at the following sites:

SAIPAN:
Kagman Community Center: 237-1017 / 1018
DYS Administration Office: 237-1000/ 1001/ 1002
Tanapag Youth Center: 664-2599

TINIAN:
DYS Office: 433-9272

ROTA:
DYS Office: 532-9393

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION AT: www.dys.gov.mp www.dcca.gov.mp

For Additional Inquiries, Please Call Or Email:

SAIPAN:
Jennifer Tanaka: 237-1017, via email at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp
Nina Nekaifes: 664-2599, via email at nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp

TINIAN:
August Famaw: 433-9272, via email at afamaw@dys.gov.mp
Cindy Alo: 433-9272, via email at calo@dys.gov.mp

ROTA:
Quindy Maratita: 532-9393, via email at qmmaratita@dys.gov.mp
Mildred Sikebert: 532-9393, via email at mwsikebert@dys.gov.mp

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

This program is made possible by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-20) Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

'CNMI tourism industry still awaiting return to normalcy'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tourism industry is still awaiting a return to normalcy since vaccinations and quarantine are still required for most international travel, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

This is so despite the many countries that have begun to return to pre-COVID-19 activity as the presence of new COVID variants have milder effects worldwide, said Atalig in the economic outlook that he also discussed in his second quarter financial report for fiscal year 2022.

In the CNMI, Atalig said, levels of commercial activity are anticipated to increase due to the partial resumption of tourism through charter flights from South Korea and proposed charter flights from Japan.

However, he said, the restrictions placed on travelers and the size of the planned resumption will not be sufficient to realize pre-COVID-19 levels of economic activity.

Atalig said the collaboration between the administration and the Marianas Visitors Authority on the Travel Bubble Program provides an on-ramp to help support local economic activity.

He said an increase in Korean and Japanese transit visitors will help boost confidence for international travel.

With the CNMI's vaccination rate at 99.9% of the total population, he said, this should help mitigate the unnecessary impacts to daily life and daily travel, boosting international confidence in traveling to the CNMI as a well-known vaccinated tourism destination.

Atalig said it is also through this collaboration that the CNMI is able to move forward in hosting the Pacific Mini Games by next month, in hopes that it will increase demand and domestic consumption of tourism services in the Commonwealth.

"Any boost in tourism will help support the CNMI's goals and budget expectations," he said.

Atalig said any of these individual consumption patterns will likely have an impact on revenues through the remaining quarters of this fiscal year.

Scheduled power service interruption today

There will be a scheduled power service interruption today, May 24, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing systems maintenance.

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) affected: Route 30 Beach Road (Mascot Auto Parts, Gold Beach Hotel, Pupulu Dr.).

Momentary Power Service Interruption: 9am to 9:30am and 12:30pm to 1pm

· Area(s) affected: Route 30 Beach Road (Garapan Public Market, Century Insurance, YCO Hardware, Alahai Ave. and Chichirica Ave.). S

■ Purpose: To replace existing primary wooden poles along Beach Road between YCO Hardware and Moylan's Insurance.

■ Circuit: Feeder 2

■ Water wells) affected: none

■ Wastewater facility affected: none

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-014

SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE II (ROYAL PALM AVENUE AND GINGER AVENUE – GARAPAN)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-014, Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding if the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC's Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC's Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT AND HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of light and heavy duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-016, Supply and Delivery of Light and Heavy Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 23, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COVID-19 vaccine booster now available for children aged 5-11

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration, will be offering a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot to children aged 5-11 at least five months after their primary series.

Eligible individuals can obtain a booster shot by calling (670) 682-7468 [SHOT] for scheduling information or the CHCC Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at the following: Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

For more information on receiving a booster shot, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who have received a booster.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shot. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur. ***(CHCC)***

CUC spent $20.24M in Q2 of fiscal year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. spent $20.24 million in total personnel, operating, and capital outlays in the second quarter of fiscal year 2022 that ended last March 31, based on CUC's unaudited fiscal year 2022 second quarter expenditures report.

Based on the report CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho submitted to the Legislature last Wednesday, it was learned that, with the $23.64 million in total personnel, operating, and capital outlays in the first quarter, this brings CUC's total spending on personnel, operating, and capital outlays this fiscal year to $43.88 million.

» CUC's total expenses in first quarter was $23.64M; $43.88M in cumulative expenses for fiscal year

From $6.71 million in total personnel expenses in the first quarter, total personnel expenses went down to $3.0 million in the second quarter.

From $139,110 in overtime cost in the first quarter, total overtime cost went up to $214,100 in the second quarter.

From $16.81 million in total operating expenses in the first quarter, total operating expenses went up to $17.17 million in the second quarter.

From $110,088 in total capital outlays in the first quarter, it went down to $61,388 in the second quarter.

Capital outlays refer to building maintenance and improvements, machinery and equipment, and vehicles.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 063
Opening Date: May 12, 2022
Closing Date: May 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Direct Responsible Charge "DRC", aka Trades Supervisor**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$32,161.00 to $43,417.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Supervises in the installation, repair and maintenance of water mains and other associated components including hydrants, meters, water tanks, water service lines, valves and pumps;
- Supervises and trains employees in the operation of appropriate motor and other equipment including back hoes, trucks, trenchers, boom trucks, drills, tapping machines, and locating devices;
- Assists in the coordination and inspection of work performed by contractors and engineers;
- Supervises in the preventative maintenance, service and repair activities of the water distribution vehicles and equipment;
- Supervises in the repair of leaks in mains and water service installations;
- Supervises in the taking of routine water samples for water quality testing;
- Ensures compliance with policies, procedures, safety guidelines, schedules and work specifications;
- Assigns, schedules and verifies completed work involved in the repair and maintenance of a water distribution system;
- May assist in the preparation of the departmental budget;
- Maintains accurate records and prepares reports, such as status reports, diagrams, field logs and requisitions;
- Calculates proper ratio of chlorine to water based on formula's specific to water chlorination;
- Responds to customer's inquiries and complaints regarding water service.
- Assignment of work orders to field staff and tracking of completed work.
- Conducts staff's performance evaluations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS, and 5 years of experience in assigned area of responsibility and 2 years' experience in a supervisory capacity; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
o Water Distribution Operator Certification Level 3
o Water Treatment Operator Certification Level 3
Physical Demands:
o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 064
Opening Date: May 12, 2022
Closing Date: May 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Training & Development Manager**
DEPARTMENT:	**Admin / Executive Director Office**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$56,439.00 to $76,192.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Manages the functions of the training and development program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal,
- Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards.
- Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding training and development.
- Analyze training needs to develop new training programs or modify and improve existing programs.
- Evaluate instructor performance and the effectiveness of training programs, providing recommendations for improvement.
- Plan, develop, and provide training and staff development programs, using knowledge of the effectiveness of methods such as classroom training, demonstrations, on-the-job training, meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- Prepare training budget for department or organization.
- Confer with management and conduct surveys to identify training needs based on projected production processes, changes, and other factors.
- Develop and organize training manuals, multimedia visual aids, and other educational materials.
- Develop testing and evaluation procedures.
- Train instructors and supervisors in techniques and skills for training and dealing with employees.
- Conduct orientation sessions and arrange on-the-job training for new hires.
- Conduct or arrange for ongoing technical training and personal development classes for staff members.
- Review and evaluate training and apprenticeship programs for compliance with government standards.
- This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.
- Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and 5 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years of leadership experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
Licensing: o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
Physical Demands: Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 066
Opening Date: May 12, 2022
Closing Date: May 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Assistant: Meter Reader**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Billing & Collections**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Perform work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assist in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assist in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 102

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Who are they? And what do they want?

They don't try to communicate, and they don't respond when we try to communicate with them. They speed away if we get too close. They move faster than anything known in this world and violate the laws of physics. At least 11 times, they've nearly collided with American military aircraft. And we have no idea what UFOs, now known as unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), are.

Representatives from the military recently told a subcommittee of the House Intelligence Committee that fast-moving objects are entering U.S. airspace and are regularly documented by experienced civilian and military pilots.

Now that the government has acknowledged that weird things are, indeed, happening in the skies, the stigma that once attached itself to those who spoke candidly of UAP sightings has disappeared. The UAP Task Force database, a catalog of sightings by military and civilian pilots, has exploded from 144 cases reported as of last June to roughly 400 reports now.

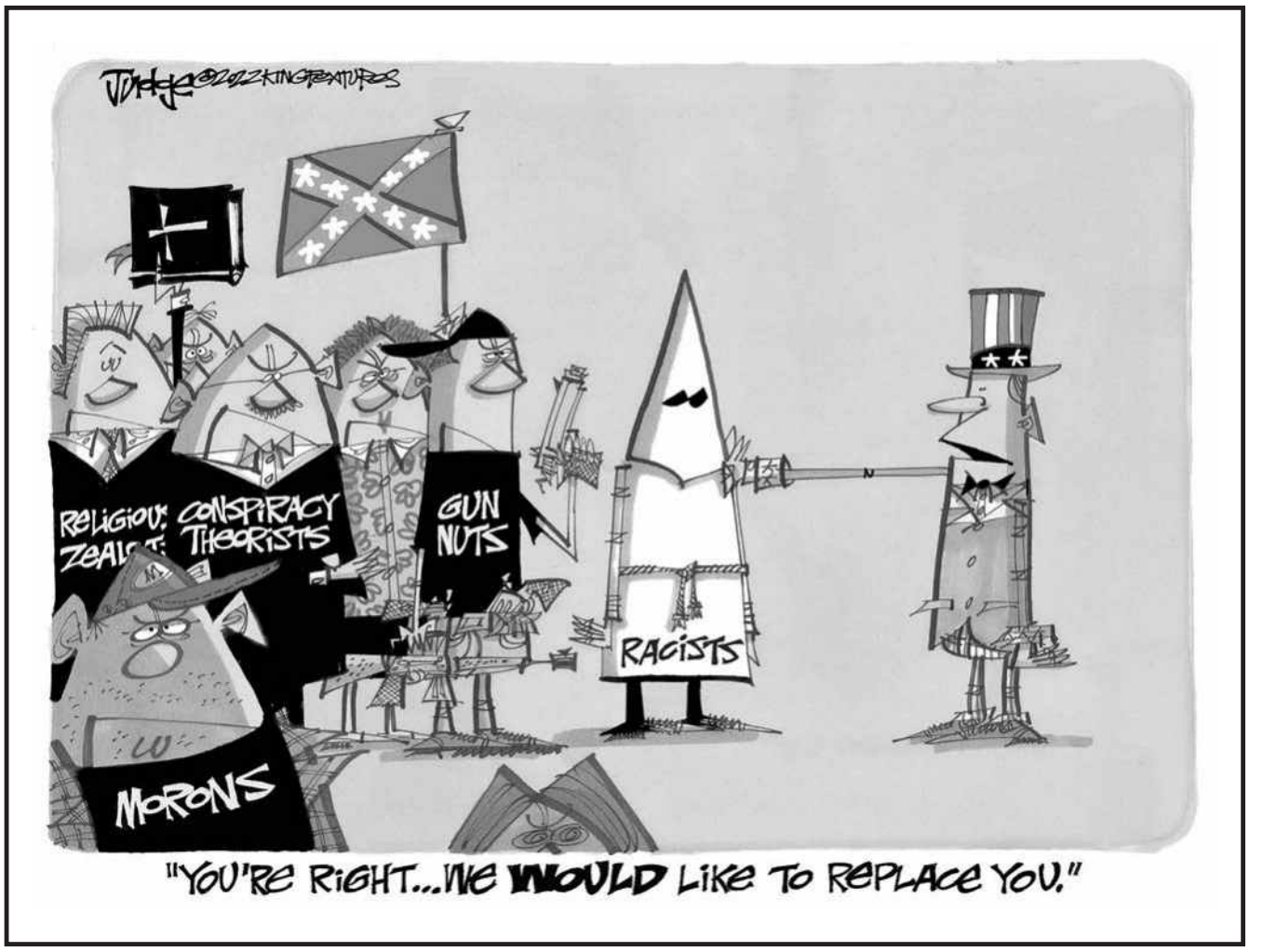
What do we know? There is no evidence that they are extra- or intra-dimensional space craft or machines or anything that would indicate intelligence. They could be something "natural" to this planet that we've simply never encountered before. Pentagon officials aren't prepared to call the objects extraterrestrial or evidence of alien visitation.

But what don't we know? In an unusual display of bipartisan cooperation, members of both parties pushed the Pentagon brass to be more forthcoming. There's a battle going on within the intelligence agencies about how much they should share with the American people. It would be counterproductive to conceal anything as momentous as alien visitation from citizens out of fear of how we would react.

And what do we know about what we don't know? There's no point in assuming that UAPs are hostile, even if they present a potential threat to national security. And even if they are "alien," they may be trying their best not to violate their version of a Prime Directive not to interfere with the development of inferior species and won't communicate with us until we're more evolved.

Now that we know that UAPs are zipping across the skies and making 90-degree turns and diving into the ocean and not surfacing, let's find out what they are. Perhaps working in tandem with our military allies and getting access to the intelligence compiled by every nation would give us a clearer picture of what humanity is dealing with.

© 2022 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



Great replacement theory is a grand delusion

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the editor of National Review and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

When a killer expounds on his derangements, it poses a special challenge. We have to take his words seriously without, at the same time, taking them seriously; to understand their import without paying them respect. In the case of the mass murderer of Buffalo, New York—I see no reason to use his name—applying that distinction requires thinking more clearly about the politics of immigration.

Since the massacre on Saturday, Americans have been talking, as the shooter probably wanted, about the "great replacement theory." The 200-proof version of the theory, to which he reportedly subscribed, is that Jews are trying to destroy the old white majority of the country via immigration, and they are doing it to create a political order more to their liking. It is a vile and stupid stew of racism and antisemitism, as should be obvious to almost everyone.

Public argument has dwelt less on the actual shooter than on such Republicans as Fox News host Tucker Carlson and U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik of New York, who stand accused of selling a diluted version of the same ideology. Carlson has said that "the Democratic Party is trying to replace the current electorate, the voters now casting ballots, with new people, more obedient voters, from the Third World." Stefanik claims that granting "amnesty to 11 MILLION illegal immigrants will overthrow our current electorate and create a permanent liberal majority in Washington."

Their defenders say they are merely observing a real phenomenon among Democrats, and then condemning it. The kernels of truth in what these Republicans say are that immigration has aided the Democratic Party over the last generation, and that Democrats have noticed and applauded it. When Democrats boasted (and sympathetic analysts predicted) that they were leading a "coalition of the ascendant," a growing immigrant population that leaned left was one of the things they were talking about.

And as Democrats have grown convinced that immigration is key to the party's future, their positions on immigration policy have moved further and further left. Democrats would have to be unusually immune to the temptation to seek advantage for there to be no connection between those two trends. (How many of the people who doubt this connection can see perfectly well that many Republicans have adopted their immigration views in part based on how they fear immigrants will vote?)

Any theory built on this connection will, however, become less and less plausible as it grows more conspiratorial. In the real world, people have supported liberal immigration policies for a long list of reasons. Some people think these policies strengthen the U.S. economy; some people associate them with tolerance; some people want the same opportunities they have found here for their cousins. Even the purely political motives of Democratic politicians and strategists are mixed. Granting citizenship to illegal immigrants is a way to win their votes, but it is also a way to win the votes of their friends and relatives who already have it.

The major laws governing immigration policy were passed with large bipartisan majorities in 1965, 1986 and 1990, at a time when neither party saw the issue as a dividing line between them. To the extent that the limits on immigration have not been enforced since these laws were passed, it has had more to do with business opposition than with anyone's desire to change the country's political demography.

To suggest that Democrats support amnesty and high immigration levels simply because they want a new electorate, or that this desire is the reason for the flaws of today's immigration system, is to oversimplify to the point of falsity. No plan has been put in place to replace today's voters, and especially its white working-class conservative voters, and it would be dangerous for the country's civic health to maintain otherwise even if we had no armed lunatics in our midst. What Carlson and Stefanik are saying is irresponsible as well as wrong.

Recent political history should discredit the theory even further, for two reasons. One is that the Democrats' belief that immigration would contribute to a large and lasting majority has instead almost certainly put one further out of reach. If Hillary Clinton had felt the same imperative to win the votes of white voters without college degrees that her husband did in the 1990s, or moderated on immigration, she might well have won the additional states she needed in the 2016 election. The coalition of the ascendant hasn't ascended.

The second is that Republicans have been making significant gains among non-white Americans. "Replacement theory" has come to the fore of the conversation just as its most solid empirical pillar is disintegrating. Let's not underestimate just how delusional, as well as evil, the murderer in Buffalo is.

The Buffalo shooting brings back a lifelong question: Why do they hate us so much?

By SANDY BANKS
Los Angeles Times

My reaction to news of the mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, was more than emotional; my heart raced and my stomach churned. My hands are shaking as I write this nearly a week later.

My first thought, in the moment after I heard about the attack, was the same as it always is after every mass shooting: Dear God, please don't let the shooter be Black. Because in the eyes of white America—consciously or not—the rest of us would be held to account.

The air cleared as the truth came out—a hate-filled young white supremacist, prosecutors say, had meticulously planned to annihilate as many Black people as he could while they shopped for groceries on a Saturday afternoon. Ten people died—all of them Black—and three were hospitalized.

As irrational as it seems, I felt a brief flash of relief; the shooter allegedly was, once again, a white man beholden to hate and enamored with guns, whose carnage would be his legacy.

But that relief was instantly dispatched by blinding rage, wrenching heartbreak, inchoate fear—and the isolating feeling of being a potential target in a violent and hateful land, carrying a load that few of my colleagues and neighbors can understand.

■■■

I have lived in that land for more than six decades now. And I can still remember when I first began to feel the weight of that burden, when it dawned on me that my brown skin could make me a pariah.

Except I didn't know that word back then, at Miles Elementary School in Cleveland, where almost all of the other students were white. I was in fifth grade and we were learning about the history of "our great country," as my teacher always called it.

I tried to laugh it off when I was mocked by white classmates, who thought images of crowded slave ships and Black men being whipped were cartoonishly funny. I was grateful then that my brown skin hid the red flush of shame. Some of these were people I'd considered friends.

And the torment didn't stop when the school day ended. At a New Year's Eve sleepover at the YWCA, which I'd begged for permission to attend, my younger sister and I were terrorized by a cabal of white girls who pelted us with the N-word, then laughed uproariously as others joined in.

We suffered in silence; there were two of us, dozens of them.

When my mother picked us up the next day, we squirmed as we insisted we had fun—then we never spoke of it again. But the shame didn't fade. And the question that was stuck in my head eventually found its way out:

Mommy, why do they hate us so much?

I wish I could tell you what her answer was. I can only remember pain contorting her face and tears welling up in her eyes. Years later I learned that she'd asked her own mother that same question, when she was a child growing up in Alabama under the yoke of Jim Crow laws.

When my own daughter came to me as a teenager—humiliated by the way everyone stared at her when racist tropes were the subject of their history class—I braced myself for what I knew she would ask; the question generations of progress had not nullified:

Mommy, why do they hate us so much?

And now I'm forced to imagine my granddaughter, with her beloved coterie of brown Barbies and baby dolls, asking that same awful question when she's old enough to recognize that people like us are not universally loved.

Mommy, why do they hate us so much?

■■■

My mother was born more than a century ago, when the Ku Klux Klan ruled rural Alabama, torturing and murdering any Black person who didn't toe their line. One by one, she and her siblings migrated north to Cleveland in the 1940s and built new lives.

I remember how hopeful she felt when we were growing up, at the apex of the civil rights movement, in a city known then for progression activism. We marched and protested and voted, and we clawed our way into the middle class. The future looked limitless and bountiful for our generation then.

Now I am glad she is not here to see this. Our country is moving back toward its nakedly racist past, fueled by shameless politicians, coarse public dialogue and fictional social media conspiracies.

And the danger now is not only from white-hooded goons, but random misfits and losers; ordinary racists and fascists, with massive arsenals and a growing list of enemies they've targeted by race, religion, ethnicity, gender and non-conformist identities.

We've spent a lot of time this week trying to parse the clues that might explain the evil that allegedly motivated Payton Gendron—as if the malignancy of the "great replacement theory" had somehow mysteriously infected him.

> **We need to stop feigning shock and innocence about how and why these massacres keep happening. We have shamefully lax gun laws, centuries-old racist and nativist proclivities, an education system stuck in the 20th century, and a growing unwillingness to care about anyone other than me, me, me.**

We need to stop feigning shock and innocence about how and why these massacres keep happening. We have shamefully lax gun laws, centuries-old racist and nativist proclivities, an education system stuck in the 20th century, and a growing unwillingness to care about anyone other than me, me, me.

So while we can keep trying to untangle the alleged motives of Gendron—as we did with Dylann Roof, Adam Lanza, Patrick Crusius, Robert Aaron Long, Robert Bowers, and now David Chou—we might also consider what the carnage puts the rest of us through.

There's a price we all pay in the wake of these unconscionable murders. And the burden falls heaviest on the targeted groups, whose emotional turmoil can last for months, long after other folks have moved on.

The funerals in Buffalo began last Friday, and dozens of friends and families will begin their journey into new lives, irrevocably altered by loss, sorrow, and grief.

But those closest to the victims won't be the only ones suffering.

Research has found that mental health can decline significantly, not only among those who witness or lose loved ones in mass shootings, but also among people who share elements of their identity, even if they live nowhere near the event.

Recent studies have focused on highly public anti-Black violence—like the murder of George Floyd, police shootings of unarmed Black men and planned attacks akin to the Buffalo market shooting.

But all racialized public incidents "likely have measurable spillover effects on the mental and physical health of members of the targeted groups," according to social science research edited by Harvard professor David R. Williams.

A study Williams led years ago linked a database of every police shooting over three years to a database tracking the mental health of every population in every state.

"We found that every police shooting of an unarmed Black person led to worse mental health for the next three months, for the Black population in the state [the shooting] occurred," Williams said.

But just as striking was a separate result: There was no mental health decline when the person shot by police was armed.

That finding opened a window for Williams and his team. The fact that only unarmed victims generated mental health effects reflected the emotions underlying the decline: a sense of unfairness and a heightened awareness of vulnerability.

Both of those can lead to stress and physiological symptoms—like the racing heart and shaky hands I experience every time Buffalo comes to mind.

It makes me feel better somehow to know I am not alone; that my emotions are real and reasonable. I feel wary, unprotected, unsafe, and everything I read or see about the tragedy brings on new waves of grief that unsettle me.

It's a wound to the psyche, Williams explained.

"It suggests that you can be totally innocent, and still you are potentially vulnerable… Your family members and friends, it could happen to them too. That's what it feels like to you."

The blow of this particular tragedy may hit Black people harder and hurt longer. But every targeted group is likely to wrestle with the same sense of fear, anger and grief when haters violently intrude on their community.

"It applies to other groups, under the same conditions," Williams said. "You're bound to be worried, to feel stress, when something like this happens" in your social network.

When an antisemite, armed with an assault rifle, bursts into a synagogue during Sabbath prayers and shoots 17 people down, how can a Jewish worshiper not be marked by the unholiness of that?

When families strolling through Walmart on a shopping trip are riddled with bullets by a white supremacist targeting Latinos—killing 23 people and wounding dozens more—how does your own Latino family ever feel safe in a crowded store again?

When a close-knit Taiwanese church welcomes a stranger with Christian courtesy, and he padlocks the doors, pulls out a gun, kills one man and wounds five elderly worshipers, how do you not worry that the stranger at your church door might also be up to no good?

And when a neighborhood market turns into a death trap, because a young white man needed someone to blame for his own personal failures, and considered Black people avatars in his virtual game, how do you stifle your own rage over the death of the grandma shopping for dinner and the dad shot down buying his son a birthday cake?

Election Times Reaction Rhymes

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

My inspiration for "Political Pedigree" comes from Emily Dickinson's poem, *The Pedigree of Honey:*

The pedigree of Honey Does not concern the Bee,
Nor lineage of Ecstasy Delay the Butterfly
On spangled journeys to the peak
Of some perceiveless thing --
The right of way to Tripoli
A more essential thing.

Political Pedigree? Minus and Plus

The pedigree of certain high-ranking politicians
does not concern SOME of their supporters
office workers, laborers, electrical technicians
every day sycophants and gossip reporters
filling in ballots they think of only one thing
will the winners give them a new and better job
will their horse remember them with more bling
will they remain an overweight bloated mob.

SOME voters want leaders to do the right thing
they are not very concerned with a pedigree
they work hard for their family not for bling
they ignore nepotism and partisan enmity
they vote with conscience and save face
they make the U.S. and CNMI a better place.

Recusal? Abusal? A Brief Perusal

It seems everyday when I read the news
someone else has said they will recuse
about that there are many different views
so I thought I'd give it a brief peruse

Recusal reports add up more and more
constantly more step aside and departed
and say my relative or I once worked for...
don't remember how long or when I started

Recused perhaps just about anyone
who knew or saw or even thought
that an unjust trial was being run
what type of lessons were being taught

Poets shed light in their own poetic way
on both sides at times of current opinion
with caustic and reasoned words in play
nonpartisan poetic license has dominion

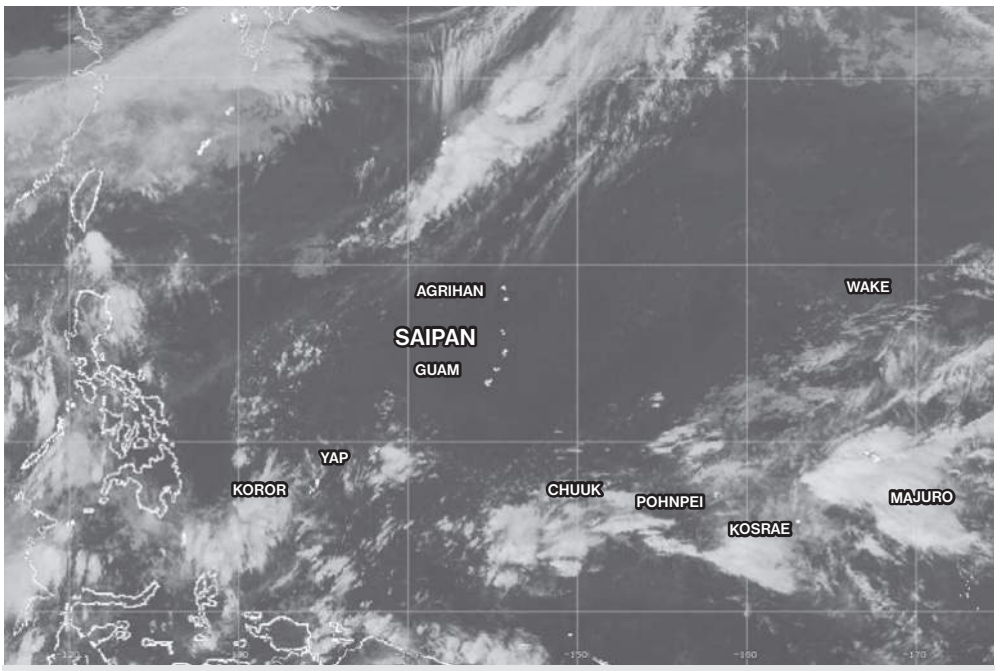
Well that's about it for me I too will recuse
may the most honest candidates team win
by conscientious voting you pick and choose.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 11 to 14 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 9 to 13 mph.	Mostly cloudy, with Scattered showers.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.	Partly cloudy, with a chance of showers.
88° 76°	88° 75°	88° 75°	91° 75°	88° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:7:44 AM, MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas. Buoys and altimetry show seas between 2 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:40 PM
Wednesday	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Thursday	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Friday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Saturday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	01:31	13:31 PM	-
Wednesday	02:10	14:22 PM	-
Thursday	02:46	15:12 PM	-
Friday	03:23	16:01 PM	-
Saturday	03:59	16:51 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	17 / 13 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	35 / 18 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	28 / 24 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	28 / 22 °F
London	Showers	17 / 9 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	25 / 15 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	33 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	19 / 8 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
New York	Cloudy	19 / 13 °F
Osaka	Sunny	29 / 18 °F
Paris	PM Showers	19 / 10 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	25 / 17 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	29 / 18 °F
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	17 / 19 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	23 / 12 °F
Seoul	Sunny	29 / 14 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	25 / 17 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	18 / 13 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:36 AM	High Tide	2.05
09:56 AM	Low Tide	1.04
2:45 PM	High Tide	1.58
9:19 PM	Low Tide	0.46

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

San Antonio street renamed in honor of 'Tan Amalia'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The street originally named Laiguan Avenue between the basketball court four-way intersection in San Antonio is now known as the "Tan Amalian Badu Avenue."

Renamed in honor of "Tan" Amalia Deleon Guerrero Diaz, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang led other officials in a renaming ceremony last Wednesday, dedicating the street to a woman who once lived along that street.

In Apatang's speech prior to the unveiling of the street's new name, he said the street is being renamed after a great woman who dedicated her life to making the village of San Antonio "an envy of the other villages."

LEIGH GASES

Tan Amalia Badu's grandsons, Anthony Taylor, in black shirt, and Jeremy Manalo, in red shirt, pose with, from left, Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Ed Propst at the new street sign.

"When [Tan Amalia] lived in the house right on this street, families and visitors to San Antonio knew [she] always welcomed them into her heart and loving home. [She] dedicated her life to helping others in any way she possibly could. Indeed she was very generous at heart and cared for everyone she met. [She] was widely known as the most devoted person to the Parish of San Antonio Church. …I would say the church was her second home, if not her first. Her faith in God made her smiles incredibly radiant. …To her grandchildren here today, the memories of Tan Amalia left for us lives in your hearts and ours. Thank you for keeping the memories of devotion alive in our hearts," said Apatang.

Afterwards, the blue silk veil covering the street sign was removed by two of Tan Amalia's grandsons, Jeremy Manalo and Anthony Taylor, revealing the new placard that states "Tan Amalian Badu Avenue."

Aside from Apatang, Taylor, and Manalo, the occasion was also attended by the Saipan Mayor's Office staff, Reps. Ed Propst (D-Saipan), Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Taylor thanked the mayor and everyone in attendance for "choosing a wonderful person [to name the street after]. …She dedicated her life to not only her family, but to everybody here in this village. Everybody was her family. She was a devout Catholic, a devout family woman, and a person that was very, very selfless. She would massage people and give people free haircuts. …[She] was a wonderful wife to my grandfather… and she was with him through thick and thin. …So I'd like to say thank you, si yu'us ma'ase to everybody from the bottom of my heart, my family, my mother, my siblings, my cousins, and everybody else. We will be forever grateful for this."

CPA sets fees for Rota's small boat harbor

CPA

The two boat slips closest to the Rota West Harbor Seaport are now designated as a small boat harbor.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Chris Tenorio issued a memo last Tuesday outlining the rates and charges for the use of the newly-designated small boat harbor of the Rota West Harbor Seaport.

Chief among the charges is a port entry fee of $110.20 for all vessels (except military and government-owned vessels) when entering the port to use the harbor. The CPA memo also outlines the dockage fee, home port fee, and wharfage rates for all cargo unloaded at the harbor.

Tenorio said the two boat slips closest to the Rota West Harbor Seaport are now designated as a small boat harbor.

The CPA memo states that wharfage rates for all cargo unloaded at the small boat harbor shall be charged on the basis of weight and shall be as follows:

Total Weight Total Wharfage Due

0 to 99 lbs	$3.00
100 to 199 lbs	$4.14
200 to 299 lbs	$4.71
300 to 399 lbs	$5.28
400 to 499 lbs	$5.85
500 to 599 lbs	$6.42
600 to 699 lbs	$6.99
700 to 799 lbs	$7.56
800 to 899 lbs	$8.13
900 to 999 lbs	$8.70
1,000 to 1,099 lbs	$9.27
1,100 to 1,199 lbs	$9.84
1,200 to 1,299 lbs	$10.41
1,300 to 1,399 lbs	$10.98
1,400 to 2,000 lbs	$11.40

If the cargo unloaded weighs over 2,000 lbs, the total wharfage charged shall equal the sum of the "Total Wharfage Due" in the above chart for the "Total Weight" ranges that are equal to the total weight of the cargo unloaded.

Port entry fee

All vessels (except military and government-owned vessels) shall pay a port entry fee of $110.20 when entering a CNMI port for the purpose of using any marina or small boat harbor.

Dockage rate

Any vessel berthing or mooring to a vessel berthed at any marina or small boat harbor under the care and control of the CPA shall pay a charge of $8.31 for every hour after the third hour berthed or moored.

Home port fee

Rates and fees for vessels operating in the territorial waters of the Commonwealth on a continuing and long-term basis may be established by agreement, exclusive of this terminal tariff, pursuant to the powers conferred upon CPA by law. In the absence of such an agreement, individuals with home port permits for marinas or small boat harbors shall pay all of the rates and fees set forth in this terminal tariff and elsewhere in the harbor regulations shall apply, except that the dockage rates shall be as follows:

Vessel Length per month:	Charge
0 to 10	$22.80
10 to 12	$30.40
12 to 14	$38.00
14 to 16	$45.60
16 to 18	$62.70
18 to 20	$76.00
20 to 22	$83.60
22 to 24	$91.20
24 to 25	$100.70
25 to 50	$155.80
50 to 75	$210.90
75 to 100	$319.20

All other regulations shall continue to apply to any vessel using the Small Boat Harbor at Rota West Harbor. Before using the Small Boat Harbor, contact CPA Rota during regular business hours from Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (closed on holidays) at (670) 532-9497 as ascertain available docking areas. ***(PR)***

Prepositioning ships squadron gets new chief

U.S. NAVY/REYNALDO T. RABARA

After being at the helm of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 for two years, Capt. John Bub, wrapped up his command tour during a change-of-command ceremony aboard USNS *2nd Lt. John P. Bobo* (T-AK 3008) while in port Guam, May 12.

By LESLIE HULL-RYDE
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FAR EAST

GUAM—After being at the helm of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 for two years, Capt. John Bub wrapped up his command tour during a change-of-command ceremony aboard USNS *2nd Lt. John P. Bobo* while in Guam last May 12.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the prepositioning force, providing essential support to every branch of the armed forces," Bub said. "This amazing staff and the incredible civil service and contracted mariner crews are critical to the success of our warfighters throughout this region."

Capt. Steven Wasson, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, relieved Bub, as the commodore in charge of MSPRON 3.

"I am thrilled to be part of this important team in this strategic location," he said. "Commodore Bub has set a solid foundation for our path going forward. Together, we will continue to support warfighters throughout the Indo-Pacific Region."

Wasson who earned his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1999, graduated from the University of South Dakota and earned a Master of Science in management and information systems from Troy University.

Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3, or MPSRON 3, strategically places material and equipment throughout the Indo-Pacific Region for all U.S. armed services. This capability ensures critical supplies are delivered where and when needed and enables U.S. forces to rapidly respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

"For the past year, I've had the pleasure of working with John, getting a chance to understand his mission here with MPSRON 3 and how vital this support is for the fleet," said Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander Joint Region Marianas, who was the guest speaker for the change-of-command ceremony. "The mission simply cannot be accomplished without the support, not only from prepositioning ships of MPSRON 3, but from the leadership that's behind them. During Capt. Bub's tour here, the team completed some impressive feats and made incredible strides."

Under Bub's leadership, MPSRON 3 orchestrated operations in support of nine major joint and multilateral exercises throughout the Indo-Pacific Area of Operations. During his tenure, Bub is credited with implementing innovative processes that save the Navy more than $12 million.

Business

‘Recession not inevitable’

U.S. President Joe Biden, left, talks to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during a bilateral meeting at Akasaka Palace, Monday, May 23, 2022, in Tokyo. AP

TOKYO (AP)—President Joe Biden says he does not believe a economic recession in the U.S. is inevitable despite record high inflation and supply shortages partly caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking at a news conference Monday in Tokyo, Biden acknowledged that the American economy has “problems,” but said it was better positioned than other countries.

“We have problems that the rest of the world has,” Biden said, “but less consequential than the rest of the world has.”

Biden acknowledged the impact that severe supply shortages and high energy prices are having on U.S. families. He said his administration was working to ease the pain for U.S. consumers, but said there were unlikely to be immediate solutions.

“This is going to be a haul,” Biden said. “This is going to take some time.”

Biden on Monday promised “concrete benefits” for the people of the Indo-Pacific region from a new trade pact he was set to launch, designed to signal U.S. dedication to the contested economic sphere and address the need for stability in commerce after disruptions caused by the pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Biden said the new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework would also increase U.S. cooperation with other nations in the region.

The White House said the framework will help the United States and Asian economies work more closely on issues including supply chains, digital trade, clean energy, worker protections and anticorruption efforts. The details still need to be negotiated among the member countries, making it difficult for the administration to say how this agreement would fulfill the promise of helping U.S. workers and businesses while also meeting global needs.

Countries signing on to the framework were to be announced Monday during Biden’s visit to Tokyo for talks with Kishida. It’s the latest step by the Biden administration to try to preserve and broaden U.S. influence in a region that until recently looked to be under the growing sway of China.

Taiwan not included in launch of new Biden Indo-Pacific pact

TOKYO (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday is expected to come out with a list of nations that will join a long-anticipated Indo-Pacific trade pact, but Taiwan won’t be among them.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed that Taiwan isn’t among the governments signed up for the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, a pact that’s meant to allow the U.S. to work more closely with key Asian economies on issues like supply chains, digital trade, clean energy and anticorruption. The U.S. president is slated to highlight the launch of the framework as he meets Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday.

Inclusion of the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own, would have irked Beijing.

“We are looking to deepen our economic partnership with Taiwan including on high technology issues, including on semiconductor supply,” Sullivan said. “But we’re pursuing that in the first instance on a bilateral basis.”

The framework is meant to establish Biden’s economic strategy for the region. Matthew Goodman, senior vice president for economics at Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, suggested that some Pacific signatories will be disappointed because the pact is not expected to include provisions for greater access to the U.S. market.

“I think a lot of partners are going to look at that list and say: That’s a good list of issues. I’m happy to be involved,” said Goodman, a former director for international economics on the National Security Council during President Barack Obama’s administration. “But, you know, are we going to get any tangible benefits out of participating in this framework?”

Beijing, in anticipation of the launch of the pact, has criticized the U.S. effort.

“We hope they will build an open and inclusive circle of friends in Asia-Pacific, rather than an exclusive cliques, and do more for peace and development, rather than creating turmoil and chaos in the region,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, said the pact is focused on “issues that would matter most for American families,” like avoiding empty shelves in stores. “This framework will help us build more resilient early warnings for supply chains,” he told CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. “We can solve those types of issues.”

Nation

Report: Top Southern Baptists stonewalled sex abuse victims

By DEEPA BHARATH, HOLLY MEYER and DAVID CRARY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, America’s largest Protestant denomination, stonewalled and denigrated survivors of clergy sex abuse over almost two decades while seeking to protect their own reputations, according to a scathing 288-page investigative report issued Sunday.

These survivors, and other concerned Southern Baptists, repeatedly shared allegations with the SBC’s Executive Committee, “only to be met, time and time again, with resistance, stonewalling, and even outright hostility from some within the EC,” said the report.

The seven-month investigation was conducted by Guidepost Solutions, an independent firm contracted by the Executive Committee after delegates to last year’s national meeting pressed for a probe by outsiders.

“Our investigation revealed that, for many years, a few senior EC leaders, along with outside counsel, largely controlled the EC’s response to these reports of abuse ... and were singularly focused on avoiding liability for the SBC,” the report said.

“In service of this goal, survivors and others who reported abuse were ignored, disbelieved, or met with the constant refrain that the SBC could take no action due to its polity regarding church autonomy–even if it meant that convicted molesters continued in ministry with no notice or warning to their current church or congregation,” the report added.

The report asserts that an Executive Committee staffer maintained a list of Baptist ministers accused of abuse, but there is no indication anyone “took any action to ensure that the accused ministers were no longer in positions of power at SBC churches.”

The most recent list includes the names of hundreds of abusers thought to be affiliated at some point with the SBC. Survivors and advocates have long called for a public database of abusers.

SBC President Ed Litton, in a statement Sunday, said he is “grieved to my core” for the victims and thanked God for their work propelling the SBC to this moment. He called on Southern Baptists to lament and prepare to change the denomination’s culture and implement reforms.

78,000 lbs of infant formula arrives in US

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A military plane carrying enough specialty infant formula for more than half a million baby bottles arrived Sunday in Indianapolis, the first of several flights expected from Europe aimed at relieving a shortage that has sent parents scrambling to find enough to feed their children.

President Joe Biden authorized the use of Air Force planes for the effort, dubbed “Operation Fly Formula,” because no commercial flights were available.

The formula weighed 78,000 pounds (35,380 kilograms), White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters aboard Air Force One as Biden flew from South Korea to Japan.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack was in Indianapolis to greet the arrival of the first shipment.

The flights are intended to provide “some incremental relief in the coming days” as the government works on a more lasting response to the shortage, Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, said Sunday.

Deese told CNN’s “State of the Union” that Sunday’s flight brought 15% of the specialty medical grade formula needed in the U.S., and because of various actions by the government, people should see “more formula in stores starting as early as this week.”

Longer term, he said, the U.S. needs more formula providers “so that no individual company has this much control over supply chains.”

Later Sunday, the White House announced the first two Defense Production Act authorizations for infant formula, both coming from the Department of Health and Human Services.

The manufacturer Abbott Nutrition can now receive priority orders of raw materials like sugar and corn syrup for infant formula, which the White House said will allow the manufacturer to increase production quickly by one-third. Reckitt, owner of Mead-Johnson, can now receive priority orders of consumables like filters and other single-use products necessary to generate certain oils needed to produce infant formula, the White House said, which will allow Reckitt facilities to operate at maximum capacity.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 hurt when bull escapes Northern California rodeo arena

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—Several people were injured when a bull jumped a fence and escaped an arena during a popular Northern California rodeo, authorities said. The escape occurred Friday during the final section of the Redding Rodeo’s bull riding event, the Redding Rodeo Association said on Facebook. The bull leapt over a fence then ran through a crowd of spectators and across a parking lot before it was captured near a bridge about a half mile (800 meters) from the arena. At least six people were treated for minor injuries, including 15-year-old Jordan Greco, a sophomore at Redding’s Enterprise High School.

Man fatally shot on New York subway train; suspect at large

NEW YORK (AP)—An unidentified gunman shot and killed another passenger on a moving New York City subway train Sunday morning in what police officials said appeared to be an unprovoked attack. The shooting happened on a Q train traveling over the Manhattan Bridge at around 11:40 a.m., a time of day when subway cars are often filled with families, tourists and people headed to Sunday brunch. Witnesses told police the gunman was pacing the last car of the train, “and without provocation, pulled out a gun and fired it at the victim at close range,” said the NYPD’s Chief of Department, Kenneth Corey. The 48-year-old victim died at a hospital and was later identified by police as Daniel Enriquez of Brooklyn.

Asia

7 dead, 120 are rescued in Philippine ferry fire

In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, passengers are checked after being rescued at the port of Real, Quezon province, Philippines Monday, May 23, 2022. AP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A ferry carrying more than 130 people caught fire Monday while approaching a northeastern Philippine province, killing at least seven people while most passengers and crewmembers were rescued, the coast guard said.

At least seven people remained missing and 23 others were injured and brought to a hospital, including the skipper, after fire engulfed the M/V Mercraft 2 while it was approaching a seaport in Real town in Quezon province from Polillo island.

Many of the 134 passengers and crew were forced to jump into the water and others were rescued by vessels in the area, coast guard officials said, adding a helicopter was on standby to help in an ongoing search for the missing.

The fire apparently started from the engine room, the officials said. The fire has been put under control and the wreckage towed to shore in Real.

Pictures released by the coast guard showed fire engulfing the ferry and dark smoke billowing from it. Injured survivors on stretchers were taken to waiting ambulance vans while a rescuer tried to revive an unconscious survivor by pressing on his chest.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippine archipelago because of frequent storms, badly maintained boats, overcrowding and weak enforcement of safety regulations. In December 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker, killing more than 4,300 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kim, other N. Koreans attend large funeral amid COVID worry

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A huge number of North Koreans including leader Kim Jong Un attended a funeral for a top official, state media reported Monday, as the country maintained the much-disputed claim that its suspected coronavirus outbreak is subsiding. Since admitting earlier this month to an outbreak of the highly contagious omicron variant, North Korea has only stated how many people have fevers daily and identified just a fraction of the cases as COVID-19. Its state media said Monday that 2.8 million people have fallen ill due to an unidentified fever but only 68 of them died since late April, an extremely low fatality rate if the illness is COVID-19 as suspected. North Korea has limited testing capability for that many sick people, but some experts say it is also likely underreporting mortalities to protect Kim from political damage. The official Korean Central News Agency said Kim attended the funeral Sunday of Hyon Chol Hae, a Korean People's Army marshal who played a key role in grooming him as the country's next leader before Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, died in late 2011.

Beijing extends work-from-home order as COVID-19 cases rise

BEIJING (AP)Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay home and ordered additional mass testing Monday as cases of COVID-19 again rose in the Chinese capital. Numerous residential compounds in the city have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less severe than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months. Beijing on Monday reported an uptick in cases to 99, rising from a previous daily average of around 50. In total, China reported 802 new cases Monday, marking a steady decline interrupted only by small-scale localized outbreaks. Despite that, the government has hewed to strict quarantine, lockdown and testing measures under its "zero-COVID" approach, even while the outside world is opening up. Shanghai reported 480,000 people were still confined to their homes, while 1.59 million were permitted to move around their neighborhoods and 21.2 million were under lighter restrictions.

World

Russian offensive pivots to Donbas city, heavy shelling

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainians were digging in to defend the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk as it endured heavy bombardment from Russian forces trying to take the industrial area known as the Donbas.

In Tokyo on Monday, President Joe Biden, meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, thanked Japan for its strong leadership in standing up to Russia as the two united in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine $40 billion more in U.S. support for its defense against the Russian attack.

While Russian and Ukrainian forces battled along a 551-kilometer (342-mile) wedge of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, Polish President Andrzej Duda traveled to Kyiv on Sunday to support Ukraine's European Union aspirations and addressed Ukraine's parliament.

Duda received a standing ovation when he thanked the lawmakers for letting him speak where "the heart of a free, independent and democratic Ukraine beats."

Ukraine does not have to yield to pressure from Russia and from elsewhere in Europe, Duda said. "I want to say clearly: Only Ukraine has the right to decide about its future. Only Ukraine has the right to decide for itself."

Duda, a right-wing populist leader who clearly preferred the former U.S. president, Donald Trump, over Biden in the 2020 election, nonetheless said that "Kyiv is the place from which one clearly sees that we need more America in Europe, both in the military and in this economic dimension."

Poland has become an important ally of Ukraine, welcoming millions of Ukrainian refugees and becoming a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons and a transit point for some foreign fighters who have volunteered to fight Russian forces.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Duda's visit, his second since April, "a historic opportunity not to lose such strong relations, built through blood, through Russian aggression. All this not to lose our state, not to lose our people."

Zelenskyy has urged the 27-member EU to expedite his country's request to join. It is to be discussed at a Brussels summit in late June.

On the battlefield, grinding, town-by-town fighting continued as Russian troops try to expand the territory that Moscow-backed separatists have held since 2014 in the Donbas, which includes Luhansk and Donetsk.

Sievierodonetsk is the main city under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, whose governor Serhii Haidai accused the Russians of "simply intentionally trying to destroy the city ... engaging in a scorched-earth approach."

Haidai said the Russians had occupied several towns and cities in Luhansk after indiscriminate, 24-hour shelling and were concentrating forces and weaponry there, bringing in troops from Kharkiv to the northwest, Mariupol to the south, and from inside Russia.

The sole working hospital in Sievierodonetck has only three doctors and supplies for 10 days, he said.

The Ukrainian military said Russian forces were unsuccessful in their attack on Oleksandrivka, a village outside the city.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran Revolutionary Guard colonel is shot dead in Tehran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A senior member of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard was killed outside his home in Tehran on Sunday by unidentified gunmen on a motorbike, state TV reported. Although the Guard gave only scant detail about the attack that occurred in broad daylight in the heart of Iran's capital, the group blamed the killing on "global arrogance," typically code for the United States and Israel. That accusation, as well as the style of the brazen killing, raised the possibility of a link with other motorbike slayings previously attributed to Israel in Iran, such as those targeting the country's nuclear scientists. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. The two assailants shot Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei five times in his unarmored Iranian-made Kia Pride, state media said, right off a highly secure street home to Iran's parliament.

5 shot to death at public housing complex in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—At least five people were shot to death Sunday night at a public housing complex in Puerto Rico, authorities said. Police spokesman Axel Valencia told The Associated Press that the deaths occurred in the community of Caimito in San Juan, capital of the U.S. territory. He said the group was shot outside the Villa Esperanza housing complex. Valencia said that police had not yet identified the victims and that it wasn't immediately clear why they were targeted. No one had been arrested.

Theories emerge for mysterious liver illnesses in children

NEW YORK (AP)—Health officials remain perplexed by mysterious cases of severe liver damage in hundreds of young children around the world. The best available evidence points to a fairly common stomach bug that isn't known to cause liver problems in otherwise healthy kids. That virus was detected in the the blood of stricken children but—oddly—it has not been found in their diseased livers. "There's a lot of things that don't make sense," said Eric Kremer, a virus researcher at the Institute of Molecular Genetics of Montpellier, in France. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and investigators around the globe are trying to sort out what's going on. The illnesses are considered rare. CDC officials last week said they are now looking into 180 possible cases across the U.S. Most of the children were hospitalized, at least 15 required liver transplants and six died. More than 20 other countries have reported hundreds more cases in total, though the largest numbers have been in the U.K. and U.S.

Overdrive

NIMBLE TOYOTA GR86 GETS MORE GRRRRR

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

The new Toyota 86 has been renamed GR86. That's pronounced GREAT-6.

I took it to the flowing turns, blind hills and uphill straightaways of Cave Creek, 50 miles northeast of Phoenix. It's a sports car's natural habitat and the ideal place to explore the significant upgrades Gazoo Racing (thus the GR prefix) has made to fix the flaws of this wonderful, affordable toy:

1) A bigger, 2.4-liter Boxer-4 cylinder engine for more torque out of the twisties.

2) Stickier, wider tires for more cornering confidence.

3) Racier, upscale design to make the $100K sports car crowd jealous.

Just be sure to get it with a manual.

My tester came with a six-speed automatic and I ached for the stick every day I had the car on a weekend visit to the Grand Canyon state. Automatics have understandably taken over the market, given their ease of use. But in a Stradivarius like the GR86, you want to be able to tune it yourself—not sit back and watch the sheet music play. Especially now that Toyota (and its sister Subaru BRZ) have the formula right.

I get to test lots of exotic sports cars—Porsche 911s, mid-engine Corvettes, Audi R8s—but there is nothing more satisfying than an entry-level sports car. It makes the joy of driving more accessible.

My young son coveted the original Toyota 86 (then called the Scion FR-S—remember Scion?) and its twin Subaru BRZ, when they were unveiled in 2014. He was so juiced that when a tester arrived in my Oakland County driveway in 2014, he jumped on a Southwest flight from Chicago to come see.

Low-slung, 200-horsepower, practical 2+2 seating, stick shift, rear-wheel drive. Alas, his balloon deflated when he stomped the gas pedal. The engine groaned, peak torque didn't come until sundown, and—worse—it paled next to the high-revving, 197-horse 2006 VTEC Civic Si that we still had in the driveway. Sigh.

As the sage says, never buy a first-generation car. Wait until gen-2. This time, Subaru and Toyota nailed it.

All credit to Subaru, of course, which is the engineering lead on the Toyobaru. They swapped out the 2.0-liter flat-4 for a 2.4-liter flat-4. That means a healthy gain in power (228 ponies) but more importantly, a 33 pound-feet torque boost to 184. That's nearly on par with the Civic Si's 192.

Reaching for the steering-wheel shift paddles to get my manual fix, I rowed the box in TRACK mode between 2nd and 3rd gears through Cave Creek's twisties—taking advantage of GR86's fatter torque curve, which arrives at a usable 3,700 rpm (vs. 6,600 RPM in the old car). Gazoo's chefs have also sweetened the exhaust sound and I wound the flat-4 all the way to 7-grand.

The bigger flat-4 cylinder means GR86 loses none of its road-hugging goodness—the Toyobaru has one of the lowest center-of-gravity measurements in the industry as well as one of the lightest bods (2,833 pounds in Premium trim). Just for good measure, engineers also fortified the skeleton with high-strength steel, front cross members, a full-ring rear frame. My Premium edition was also shod with sticky Michelin Pilot Sport 4 shoes—a step up from the base Michelin Primacy H/P tires.

Let me recommend the $2,600 walk from the base GR86 to the $31,325 Premium model with those Sport 4 gummies wrapped around black 18-inch wheels and other goodies like heated leather seats, blind-spot assist and a Supra-like duckbill tail.

The latter is testament to the GR86's significantly more mature look. Squint your eyes and it looks like the 2023 Nissan Z. And that's saying something for a Toyota brand that can be hit or miss on design these days (seen a Prius lately?). GR86's design is sleek, minimalist, timeless. It's the looker of the Toyobaru twins.

"That's an attractive car," said Mrs. Payne, picking our GR86 out in a crowded parking lot. She's not prone to gush. Leave that to me. From the aggressive front to the dramatic rocker panels to the rear duckbill, GR86 has looks to match its athleticism.

Dressed in killer red, the low-slung roller-skate got a lot of stares around Phoenix—a notorious cars 'n' coffee town. It also attracted challengers. An all-wheel-drive Tesla Model Y sidled up at a stoplight. Oh, I knew that wouldn't go well.

I took the bait, stomped the pedal and rowed the oars for all they were worth. The Tesla disappeared into the distance.

The manual would have done a bit better. Toyota says the automatic is a half-second slower 0-60 mph. Sudden acceleration also exposes the auto's biggest flaw: poor tip-in. I tested the GR86 right after a silky-smooth, six-speed automatic Mazda CX-30 (Mazda engineers are obsessive about this stuff) and GR86 felt like a bucking bronco by comparison.

The automatic's biggest benefit is adaptive cruise control—which I use a lot in cop magnets like GR86 to keep my speeds at the posted limit. But I'd still opt for the manual—especially since Toyota equips it with a handbrake. Oh, joy.

The tandem are nicely paired in the center console of a redrawn interior. It's spartan, but everything is in its place—except the curious decision to locate the cupholders inside the butterfly console bin. This is also where the USB is located for wired, Android Auto navigation.

Happily, door cupholders are within easy reach so I could navigate and slurp Snapple at the same time. Aft of the front seats, Toyobaru offers a rear bench too small for adults, but—like the 911's 2+2 arrangement—they make welcome cargo space. Picking up Mrs. Payne at the airport, I stuffed her full-size bag and a second carry-on in the boot—then threw my carry-on and briefcase in the rear seats. Try that in an MX-5 Miata.

Miata is the class icon, but now that Gazoo has fixed the 86, it is the better all-around car with storage, room and looks to match its performance. Toyota offers a complimentary one-year track membership to the National Auto Sport Association so you can test the limits.

Preferably with a manual.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Vehicle type: Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, four-passenger sports car
- Price: $28,725, including $1,025 destination fee ($33,250 as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.4-liter Boxer-4 cylinder
- Power: 228 horsepower, 184 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: six-speed manual; six-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph 6.1-6.6 sec. (mfr.); top speed, 140 mph
- Weight: 2,868 pounds (automatic as tested)
- Fuel economy: EPA est. 20 mpg city/27 highway/22 combined (manual); 21 mpg city/ 31 highway/ 25 combined (auto)
- Report card
- Highs: Affordable performance; decent storage for a sports car
- Lows: Adaptive cruise only comes in the automatic; get the manual, not the auto
- Overall: ★ ★ ★ ★

TOYOTA/TNS
The 2022 Toyota GR86.

MOTORMOUTH: Gas stations of the future

Q: As the car market transitions to more electric vehicles, what will traditional car service stations do since all the service needed by internal combustion engines will be replaced by a big battery?

A: One of the scenarios is that stations may become hybrids themselves, selling gas and electrons. Since filling the batteries takes longer than filling the tank, they may become travelers' oases. Charge your car and have lunch, for instance. Charge your car and go to the bar? Probably not. Maybe get a haircut. Entrepreneurial minds seem to have no limits.

Q: I have a 2010 Lexus RX350 with 128,000 miles and the handling is not as precise as I like. Although there is no leakage on the shocks, I am wondering if you would recommend replacing the shocks because of the age. If so, would you recommend original equipment replacement or another brand?

A: New shocks and struts may make a noticeable difference. Not only do they restore handling, they contribute to shorter stopping distances by keeping the tires from skipping when braking. You can find original equipment components also in the aftermarket.

Q: I have been seeing several comments about the use of Techron and similar products. The claim is to prevent intake valve deposits. I have a 2010 Cadillac with a direct fuel injection engine. The fuel is not sprayed on the valves, but directly into the cylinder. They made a big deal about direct injection when introduced, but not so much anymore. My wife's Focus has a DI engine. Are these cleaners effective for DI engines? Are people who unknowingly have a DI engine wasting money?

A: On direct injection engines, the valves see only fresh air. So, you are right about the additives being less useful.

Q: I travel on the highway a lot and I'm a woman who keeps her car in good shape. I had my gaskets and oil pan replaced two years ago -- expensive. Anyway, I went for an oil change, and they stripped my drainage plug. They offered to repair it, but the trust was gone for me. I told them I wanted a new oil pan. I would feel safe on the highway knowing I had another oil pan.

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

What do you think?

A: Stripped and worn out drain plugs are pretty common. If the oil pan's drain threads are OK, all you need is a new plug. If the drain hole is damaged, there are lots of repair products that have been trusted for years. You will be safe.

Life & Style

‘Doctor Strange’ remains atop box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Doctor Strange and his multiverse got to linger a little longer atop the weekend box office as Tom Cruise and “Top Gun” wait in the wings.

Marvel’s “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness” was the top-earning film of the weekend for the third straight week, bringing in $31.6 million in 4,534 North American theaters, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

“Downtown Abbey: A New Era” made a strong opening showing for Focus Features with $16 million from 3,820 theaters, but there has been no real blockbuster competition for “Doctor Strange.”

“This film has had a pretty wide open marketplace,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “This weekend really is, this is the proverbial calm before the storm.”

That storm will come in the form of the long-awaited, and long-delayed, release of “Top Gun: Maverick,” the sequel that arrives next week on Memorial Day weekend, 36 years after the original smash hit and cultural landmark.

It flies in amid sky-high hype.

“The marketing for this movie has really been going on for about three years.” Dergarabedian said. “That’s a pretty long runway to guild up excitement.”

Cruise had the film festival in Cannes, France, abuzz on Wednesday with a whirlwind appearance for the film’s European premiere that included a fly over of French fighter jets and an honorary Palme d’Or award.

“Top Gun” represents two seemingly fading phenomena — the major movie star and the big-screen-only experience, for which Cruise has been a tireless ambassador. And the industry is hoping they will help bring a more familiar summer for theaters.

AP

This image released by Focus Features shows Hugh Bonneville, from left, Elizabeth McGovern, and Laura Carmichael in a scene from “Downton Abbey: A New Era.”

“This is going to be one of the most important Memorial Day weekends ever, considering what the stakes are,” Dergarabedian said. “We didn’t have a traditional summer movie season for two years.”

Before the pandemic, the summer box office season generally brought in more than $4 billion annually. After an essentially non-existent 2020, the 2021 take, in a year of recovery, was $1.75 billion. This year’s crop of films, which also includes “Jurassic World Dominion” and “Thor: Love and Thunder,” could double that, Dergarabedian said.

But while the world waits, “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness” crossed the $800 million mark in global grosses, surpassing “The Batman” to become the top-grossing film of the year.

Released by the Walt Disney Co. and directed by Sam Raimi, “ Doctor Strange 2 “ benefitted from being the first Marvel movie to follow “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” in which Benedict Cumberbatch’s sorcerer played a pivotal role.

It also builds upon the popular Disney+ series “Wandavision” and contains a number of cameos that fans didn’t want to be spoiled.

Holdover family films “The Bad Guys” and “Sonic the Hedgehog 2” took the third and fourth spots. Universal’s “The Bad Guys” added $6.1 million in its fifth week. “Sonic 2” earned $3.9 million in its seventh.

Director Alex Garland’s folk horror thriller “Men” brought in $3.3 million for production company and distributor A24.

Meanwhile, “Everything Everywhere All At Once” is still going strong even after nine weeks in release. The A24 film picked up an additional $3.3 million, down only 6% from the previous weekend, bringing its total grosses to $47 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,”** $31.6 million.
2. **“Downtown Abbey: A New Era,”** $16 million.
3. **“The Bad Guys,”** $6.1 million.
4. **“Sonic the Hedgehog 2,”** $3.9 million.
5. **“Men,”** $3.3 million.
6. **“Everything Everywhere All At Once,”** $3.1 million.
7. **“Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore,”** $1.9 million.
8. **“Firestarter,”** $1.9 million.
9. **“The Lost City,”** $1.5 million.
10. **“The Northman,”** $1 million.

Heard’s lawyers try to poke holes in Depp’s libel lawsuit

By BEN FINLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attorneys for actor Amber Heard spent much of last week trying to portray her ex-husband, Johnny Depp, as a jealous and drunken abuser who can only blame himself for his nose-diving Hollywood career.

Since Heard concluded her testimony in a Virginia courtroom Tuesday, her lawyers have presented witness testimony from people who were once close to Depp but shunted from his orbit. They’ve included Depp’s former longtime agent, the actor Ellen Barkin and Heard’s sister.

AP

Actor Johnny Depp waves as he leaves the courtroom at the Fairfax County Circuit Courthouse in Fairfax, Va., Thursday, May 19, 2022.

The attorneys’ goal: Undermine Depp’s libel suit against Heard. The suit claims she falsely portrayed him as a domestic abuser and cost him his lucrative film career, including the “Pirates of the Caribbean” movie franchise.

Depp points to a 2018 Washington Post op-ed in which Heard described herself as “a public figure representing domestic abuse.” Depp’s lawyers say he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

The trial will enter its sixth week when it resumes Monday. Below are snippets of testimony from some of the witnesses called last week by Heard’s attorneys in their attempt to poke holes in Depp’s case.

DEPP’S HOLLYWOOD CAREER

Depp blames Heard’s 2018 op-ed for spinning his career into free fall. But Heard’s lawyers claim that only Depp can be responsible for his star dimming in the Hollywood firmament.

Husband’s drinking puts family at risk and marriage in doubt

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 20 years has had DUIs in the past. He has always been a binge drinker when socializing. He has been going out once a week after work for three hours, during which he drinks and then drives home. He tells me he has a couple beers, but his tab and his face tell a different story.

We have three teenagers who see his behavior, and it sets a bad example. My other worry is that he may take the kids somewhere after he gets home from his weekly outing. I have instructed them not to let Dad take them anywhere on Wednesdays (his regular bar day). I have also asked him not to drive them anywhere on Wednesdays. I make sure I work from home on that day, but all of this doesn’t seem like enough, and I want him to stop.

I have thought about divorce for this and other reasons, but I worry his drinking would get worse. I’ve also considered doing an intervention with family. I’m at the end of my rope and ready to do something, but what is the next step?

REACHED MY LIMIT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR REACHED: Step one should be to attend some Al-Anon meetings. This is an organization founded to help the friends and families of someone with an alcohol problem, which it appears your husband has. Those meetings will give you perspective. Your next step will be to figure out what divorce may mean for you and your children financially. Once you have that information, tell your husband -- while he is sober and you are calm -- that you have reached your limit and, unless he is willing to quit drinking, you are going to leave him. See how he reacts and, if nothing changes, follow through.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Seven years ago, my husband and I were going through a rough patch. Unfortunately, he shared all the details with his parents. We are still together going on 24 years. I was so upset when I found out he had told them our business because I loved them and knew it wouldn’t be the same.

My father-in-law acts like he loves me, but my mother-in-law doesn’t talk to me, and I haven’t received a birthday card since. On Christmas we receive a check with only my husband’s name on it. Only my daughter and my husband are acknowledged on their birthdays. I love my in-laws, and with my own parents gone, I miss just being loved. My husband thinks it’s no big deal that they ignore my birthday. Is it really no big deal?

DREADING MY BIRTHDAY NOW

DEAR DREADING: I disagree with your husband. That his parents continue to punish you because he tattled about your marital problems IS a big deal. And now the tattler should tell his folks it’s time to bury the hatchet and welcome you back into the fold. If he’s not man enough to do that, then some sessions for YOU with a licensed marriage counselor might help you to accept the status quo. You said you want to be loved, and by that I assume you mean unconditionally. In the case of your in-laws, that may not be possible, and you may need to learn to accept it.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

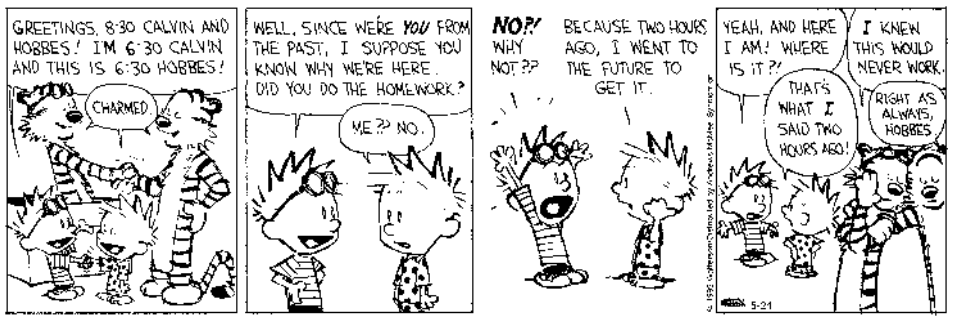
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

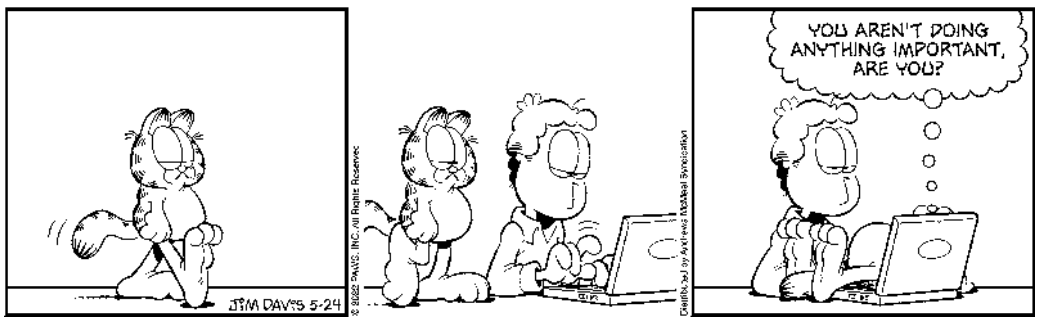
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GREETINGS, 8:30 CALVIN AND HOBBES! I'M 6:30 CALVIN AND THIS IS 6:30 HOBBES!
CHARMED
WELL, SINCE WE'RE YOU FROM THE PAST, I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE. DID YOU DO THE HOMEWORK?
ME?? NO.
NO?! WHY NOT??
BECAUSE TWO HOURS AGO, I WENT TO THE FUTURE TO GET IT.
YEAH, AND HERE I AM! WHERE IS IT??
I KNEW THIS WOULD NEVER WORK.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID TWO HOURS AGO!
RIGHT AS ALWAYS, HOBBES
5-21

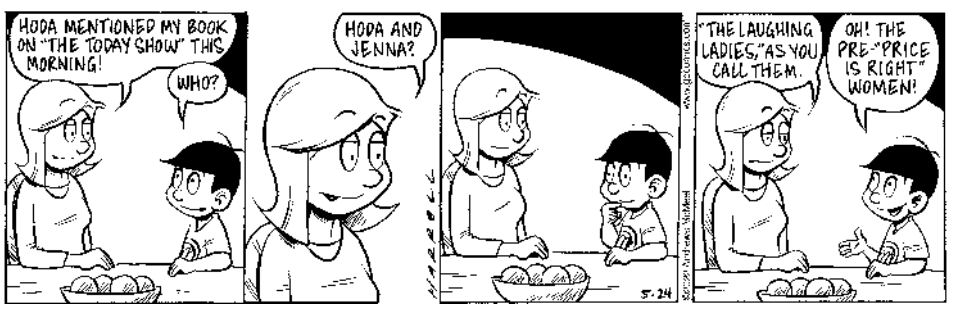
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



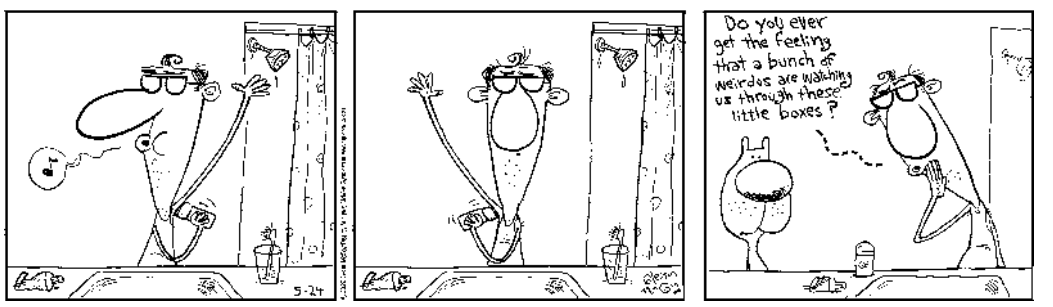
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HODA MENTIONED MY BOOK ON "THE TODAY SHOW" THIS MORNING!
WHO?
HODA AND JENNA?
"THE LAUGHING LADIES," AS YOU CALL THEM.
OH! THE PRE-"PRICE IS RIGHT" WOMEN!
5-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

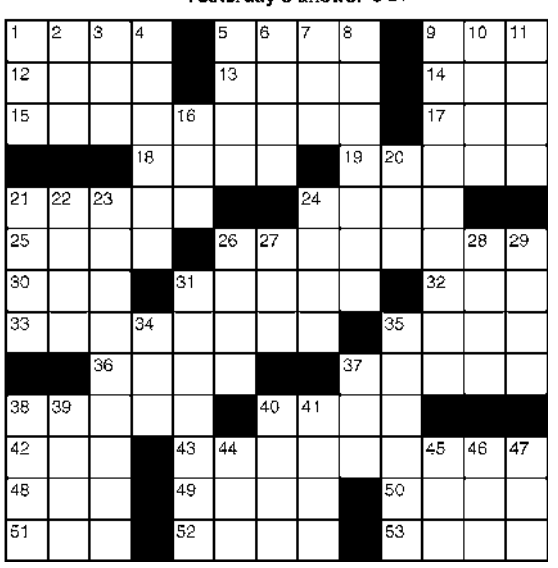
ACROSS
1 Biting remark
5 Recognize
9 Hit CBS series
12 Party cheese
13 Tiny bit
14 Hogwash
15 Jury service, for one
17 Gallery display
18 Scepters
19 Lascivious
21 Concentrate (on)
24 Wild party
25 Part of Q.E.D.
26 Patronized, as an inn
30 "High Society" studio
31 Small change
32 German pronoun
33 Road surfaces
35 Plane-related
36 Pickling herb
37 Lay to rest
38 Expensive violin
40 Designer Chanel
42 Calendar abbr.
43 Confection container
48 Prefix with athlete
49 Unpaid
50 "Prometheus" actor Idris
51 Conclude
52 Hardens
53 Stitched line

DOWN
1 Telly network
2 NPR's Shapiro
3 Body of water (Abbr.)
4 Lebanese capital
5 NBA All-Star Jason
6 Entre —
7 Mel of Cooperstown
8 Ambushes
9 Quick-loss regimen
10 Type
11 — -bitty
16 Lettuce variety
20 Exploit
21 Disaster aid gp.
22 PTA and NEA, e.g.
23 President's retreat
24 Cave creatures
26 Vend
27 Potent stick
28 Ranch measure
29 Thunder god
31 Colorful cats
34 Smack
35 Battery ends
37 Glacial
38 Pay to play
39 Early period
40 Tech news website
41 Probability
44 Bedazzle
45 Land in la mer
46 Govt. loan agcy.
47 Deli meat

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	T	I	S	■	U	M	P	■	C	O	T	S
E	A	S	T	A	S	I	A	■	U	R	A	L
D	O	O	R	B	E	■	I	■	B	E	I	A
■	■	■	A	B	S	■	I	D	I	O	C	Y
M	A	Z	D	A	■	H	M	O	S	■	■	■
A	R	E	S	■	D	O	O	R	M	A	T	■
P	I	N	■	W	A	R	N	S	■	W	A	N
■	D	O	O	R	W	A	Y	■	G	O	L	D
■	■	■	M	A	N	S	■	D	E	L	L	A
S	C	R	A	P	E	■	M	A	C	■	■	■
S	H	A	H	■	D	O	O	R	K	N	O	B
N	O	R	A	■	O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O
S	W	A	N	■	N	A	T	■	S	A	L	T

Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Ballas, 36; John C. Reilly, 57; Priscilla Presley, 77; Bob Dylan, 81.

Happy Birthday: Stand alone if that's what it takes to get things done your way and on time. Put your heart and soul into what matters most to you, and don't buy into outlandish schemes that have no guarantees. Be smart when it comes to money matters, and steer clear of joint ventures that can tie you up emotionally and financially. Your numbers are 3, 15, 21, 28, 33, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pick up the pace and finish what you start. Your relentless attitude will draw others to your side and encourage personal growth and a strategy that helps you outmaneuver anyone who tries to come between you and victory. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Leave nothing to chance, and be ready for unexpected changes or interference. Know what you want, and prepare to do whatever it takes to reach your destination. A personal improvement will give you the confidence to share your thoughts. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen to reason, but take the road less traveled. Follow your heart and use your skills to promote what you want. Let your voice be heard by those who have an impact on how you live and what you accomplish. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Embrace change and enjoy the ride. Use your skills to get ahead and to help others. Choose to be unique and implement innovative ideas into your everyday routine. Standing out in the crowd will feel good and help you gain respect. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be open and receptive to what others have to say, but be resourceful about what you want to pursue. Don't let what others do lead you astray or make you second-guess your plans. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get out there and strut your stuff. Be part of the solution, share your thoughts and act when action is needed. Pool your resources, and you'll find it easier to reach your goal. Don't limit what you can do; ask for assistance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Your discipline and persistence will pay off. Whether dealing with work or pleasure, speak up and fight for what you want. Your keen perception will help you stay focused and remain mindful of what others need and want. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take the path that you find most inviting. Looking at something from a different angle will change how you perceive yourself and your future. Change begins with you, so don't dawdle — clear up your mess and move along. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Concentrate on home, family and building a stable environment that encourages you and those you live with to give their all and do their best. Success requires a good foundation and trusted allies. Romance and self-improvement are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a moment to evaluate what's happening. Don't get into a no-win situation. Keeping the peace will help you get things done and save face. Anger and revenge are wastes of time and energy. Be smart, not sorry. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Rethink your strategy, and you'll come up with an alternative plan that will help you sidestep situations and people detrimental to what you are trying to achieve. Don't get pulled into someone's dream when you have a plan already. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't lose sight of your target. Establish what you want to do and speak to those who can help your dreams come true. Don't waffle when you know in your heart that change is in your best interest. Take command and forge ahead. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, quick-witted and resourceful. You are original and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5				3		2	
8		6		9		7		3
	2						6	
			3		1			4
	4						1	
9				7		2		
	8						3	
3		4		7		2		1
	7		5				9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	3	5	7	4	2	6	1
7	1	6	8	9	2	4	5	3
4	2	5	1	6	3	9	8	7
5	7	1	3	2	9	6	4	8
6	4	9	7	5	8	3	1	2
2	3	8	6	4	1	7	9	5
3	5	7	9	1	6	8	2	4
1	9	2	4	8	7	5	3	6
8	6	4	2	3	5	1	7	9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

A SUMMER VACATION IS ON MY MIND **Solution: 5 letters**

A	S	T	R	O	P	S	S	A	P	I	C	N	I	C
C	D	R	N	E	D	R	A	G	D	P	A	R	T	Y
F	O	V	E	N	E	C	A	R	N	I	V	A	L	A
L	B	N	E	L	B	X	A	G	A	M	E	S	E	D
I	A	I	C	N	K	C	P	O	X	A	L	E	R	I
P	R	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	E	A	E	L
F	B	A	N	S	R	U	I	F	O	N	W	Z	C	O
L	E	B	O	A	T	T	R	R	T	R	A	V	C	H
O	C	P	R	E	T	A	W	E	P	G	E	A	O	A
P	U	T	N	E	T	U	R	C	R	S	R	C	S	M
S	E	V	I	S	I	T	R	A	V	E	L	A	H	M
E	O	L	O	P	A	V	T	E	M	K	I	T	E	O
V	N	S	W	I	M	S	O	A	M	U	S	I	C	C
A	A	S	N	I	B	A	C	M	L	E	T	O	H	K
W	C	I	T	Y	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/24

Adventure, Barbecue, Boat, Cabins, Camera, Canoe, Carnival, City, Concert, Draw, Entertain, Explore, Flip-flops, Friends, Games, Garden, Golf, Hammock, Holiday, Hotel, Kite, Movie, Music, Nature, Party, Passport, Picnic, Polo, Postcard, Relax, Soccer, Sprinklers, Stargaze, Sunglasses, Swim, Tent, Travel, Vacation, Visit, Volunteer, Water, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Bassinet

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

Wiggins, Warriors dunk Mavericks 109-100 for 3-0 series lead

DALLAS (AP)—Stephen Curry shimmied for the TV crew, Andrew Wiggins shook Luka Doncic with a posterizing dunk and the Warriors are thinking sweep.

Curry scored 31 points, Wiggins' playoff career high 27 points included the dunk that was originally called an offensive foul and Golden State beat the Dallas Mavericks 109-100 Sunday night for a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"He's looking like Dominique Wilkins out there," Klay Thompson said of Wiggins after scoring 19 points as the Warriors moved to the brink of the NBA Finals, three years after the end of a five-year run that yielded three championships.

Golden State, which swept Portland in its most recent West finals in 2019 before Toronto won the title, goes for the sweep in Game 4 on Tuesday in Dallas. No team has rallied from 3-0 down to win an NBA playoff series.

"I love the position we're in," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I love the fact that our team came in and got the win tonight. This was the one we felt like we had to get. Coming here up 2-0, you've got to take advantage of your momentum."

Doncic scored 40 and beat the first-quarter buzzer with a 32-footer that got the crowd going with the Mavericks again at home trailing 2-0, as they did against top-seeded Phoenix before winning the West semifinal series in seven games. But that shimmy-inducing bucket from the young superstar was a blip on an otherwise rough night from 3-point range for the Mavericks, who missed their first seven and finished 13 of 45

Reggie Bullock and Maxi Kleber, two long-range specialists for Dallas, missed all 12 of their 3s combined and were 0-15 overall. Both went scoreless, offsetting Spencer Dinwiddie's 26 points off the bench. Jalen Brunson scored 20.

Wiggins' one-handed dunk over Doncic midway through the fourth quarter was called a foul because his elbow made contact around Doncic's neck as Doncic jerked backward and fell. But the replay ruling after Kerr challenged was incidental contact, giving Golden State a 93-83 lead.

"I got hit a little bit, but that was impressive," Doncic said. "I'm not going to lie. I saw the video again, and I was like, 'Oh ...' That was pretty incredible. I wish had those bunnies."

About a minute later, Wiggins, who matched his playoff career high with 11 rebounds, moved quickly down the right baseline for a follow dunk on a miss by Curry.

"Just feeling the energy," Wiggins said of his dunk over Doncic. "That's the main thing when I seen the rim. That's all I seen. They tried to take it away from me, but ..." Wiggins said, interrupting himself with a laugh before thanking Kerr for the challenge.

Curry scored 11 points in the third quarter, giving the Warriors their biggest lead at 78-64 with a step-back 3 in the final minute and turning to the national TV crew for a close-up view of his shoulder shimmy.

Doncic scored 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks tried desperately to close the gap, but fell to 2-6 in his three playoff seasons when the 23-year-old, three-time All-Star scores at least 40 points.

One of Dinwiddie's 3-pointers got Dallas within five points with 1:15 remaining, but Jordan Poole answered with one from the left wing just inside the final minute.

The Mavericks, playing past the first round since first-year coach Jason Kidd was the point on the Dirk Nowitzki-led team that won the 2011 title, lost a nine-point lead in the final four minutes of the first half two nights after failing to hold a 19-point lead on the road in a Game 2 loss.

"This is just the beginning of this journey," Kidd said. "I know you guys have us winning the championship before the season started. And that's a joke if you didn't get it. This is a lot bigger than just this one game or this series. This is huge for our franchise because none of you guys had us here."

The most tense moment of the series came late in the first half after a corner 3 from Curry capped an 8-0 run that put the Warriors in front by a point and helped them to a 48-47 halftime lead. And it left Curry confused.

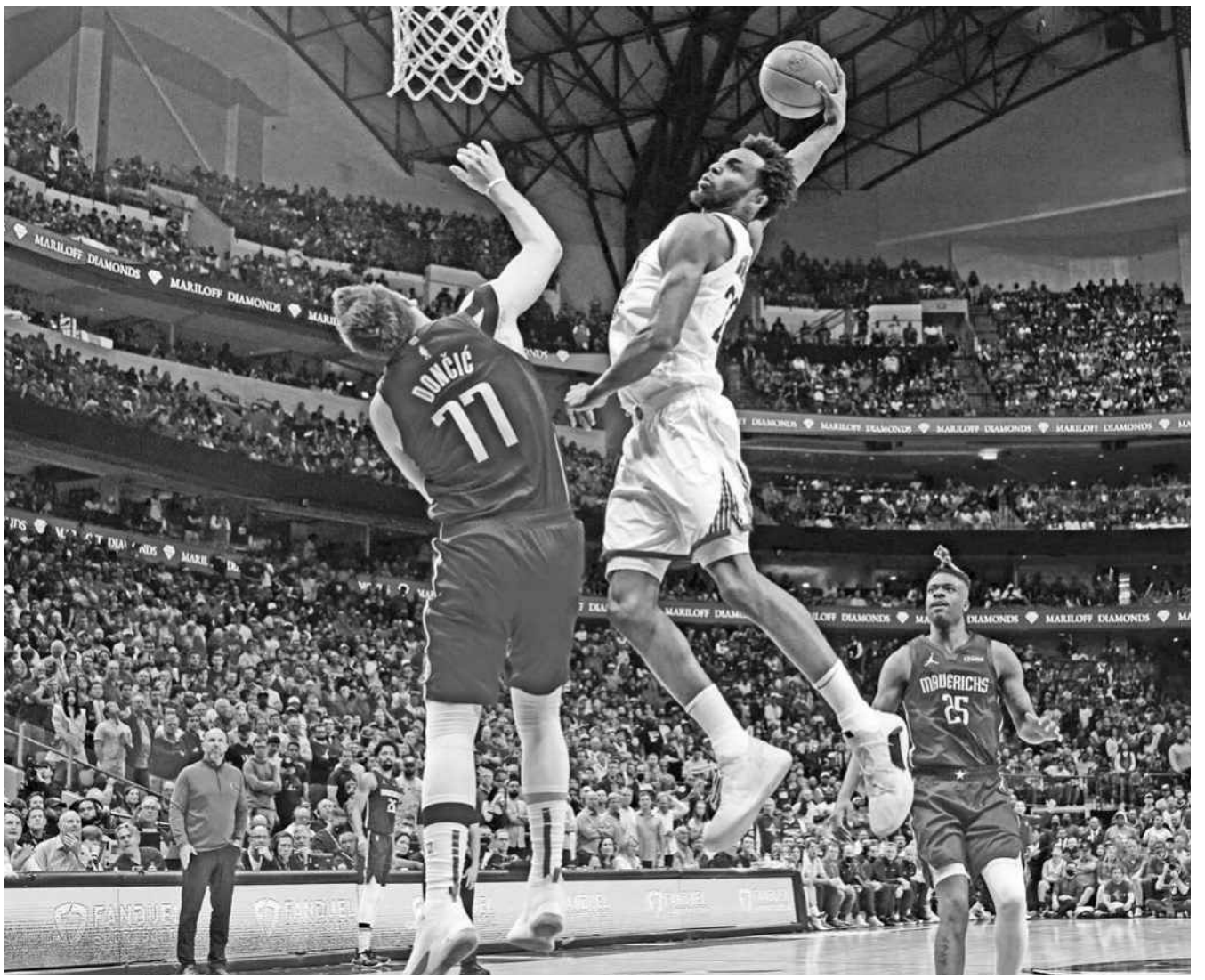
Curry ran the length of the court with his tongue hanging out after Dallas called timeout. As he circled back toward his bench, Curry walked by Doncic with teammate Juan Toscano-Anderson nearby.

Doncic appeared to take issue with something Toscano-Anderson said and started toward the Golden State bench before officials along with coaches and players from both teams intervened. Meantime, Draymond Green and injured Dallas guard Tim Hardaway Jr. exchanged unpleasantries about 45 feet apart.

After the timeout, Curry could been seen saying, "What happened?" and approached Doncic to talk about it. The exchange ended with Green as the peacemaker with Doncic.

Green got a technical foul, his second of the series, after an extended conversation with official Marc Davis when he was called for a backcourt violation when he hurriedly tried to step back over the midcourt line to catch a long, unexpected pass from Curry.

The crowd was howling for a technical and finally got it, after plenty of Twitter chatter following Game 2 on whether refs should have given him a second tech. Soon after, Green was called for his first foul and didn't like the call. But he directed his complaint at his own bench instead of the officiating crew.



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (22) dunks the ball over Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals, Sunday, May 22, 2022, in Dallas.

Injuries abound in Heat's Game 3 win over Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—The Miami Heat played the entire second half without their top scorer. The Boston Celtics lost two of their top players, who both returned to do their best Willis Reed impersonations.

It wasn't enough to keep Miami from holding off a late Boston charge to regain home-court advantage in a 109-103 victory Saturday in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Heat All-Star Jimmy Butler sat the entire second half because of right knee inflammation, his absence helping the Celtics to whittle what had been a 15-point halftime deficit to a point in the closing minutes.

Along the way, Boston also briefly lost both Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart and All-Star Jayson Tatum to injuries in the second half. Smart sprained his ankle in the third quarter, but was able to return. Tatum left late in the fourth quarter with a shoulder stinger, but after a brief trip to the locker room was also able to finish the game.

"It's playoff basketball. You have two really competitive teams going at it and laying it out on the line, and there's just adversity going on both sides just constantly," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The competition is that intense that it's creating that adversity. I do not have any updates on anybody. We're just going to go back to our cave and just recoup."

Butler also missed Game 5 of the Heat's first-round series with Atlanta because of the same injury. But Spoelstra said Butler won't need another MRI. His status will be updated on Sunday.

Butler played 20 minutes in the first half, scoring eight points on 3-of-8 shooting. He was coming off a team-high 29-point performance in Miami's Game 2 loss. The Heat led 62-47 at the halftime.

Spoelstra was able to tell during the first half that Butler was playing with discomfort.

"He didn't have his normal explosive burst," Spoelstra said. "He's been able to manage this. I think the next two days will be really important obviously."

Miami began Game 3 playing at full strength after getting back starting point guard Kyle Lowry for the first time this series. He had missed eight of the previous 10 games with a right hamstring injury.

"I feel fine. I'm out here playing. This has been a process for me. It's been a long journey with this type of injury," Lowry said. "Going forward we are going to continue to have open dialogue, open communication and just continue to find ways to help me be on the floor."

With Boston trailing 93-84 with 5:18 remaining in the game, Tatum turned the ball over in traffic and fell to the ground as Miami raced back up the court. He remained down when the Celtics got the ball back and went straight to the locker room after play was stopped.

Tatum emerged from the locker room tunnel with 3:18 to play.

The play was reminiscent of Willis Reed, the former Knicks star who hobbled back to the floor after sustaining a muscle tear and inspired the Knicks to a Game 7 win in the 1970 NBA Finals.

Fans chanted Tatum's name as he ran toward the bench.

"My neck got caught in a weird position," Tatum said. "I went down and felt some pain and discomfort in my neck and down my arm, and then went to the back, got it checked on, and started to gain some feeling back and got it checked by the doctors and ran some tests and decided to give it a go."

But he was largely ineffective the rest of the way, committing a foul, then committing his sixth turnover of the game. He was just 3 of 14 from the field with 10 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Smart's injury occurred with 10:57 left in the third quarter. He returned at the 6:52 mark and finished with 16 points and seven assists.

Celtics coach Ime Udoka said both Tatum and Smart will continue to be evaluated, but he remains optimistic after they were able to finish the game.

"I'm assuming they'll be okay," he said.

If Butler isn't ready to go in time for Game 4 for some reason, Heat guard Max Strus said the team would adjust as necessary.

"Whatever it is, we'll figure it out and get it done and be ready for Monday," he said.

Anderson, White Sox silence Yankees in doubleheader sweep

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Anderson hit a three-run homer and then put a finger to his lips to silence the booing fans, capping a tumultuous weekend at Yankee Stadium and helping the Chicago White Sox beat New York 5-0 Sunday night for a doubleheader sweep.

A day after Anderson, who is Black, accused Yankees slugger Josh Donaldson, who is white, of making a racist remark, the All-Star shortstop didn't play in the first game. AJ Pollock hit a tiebreaking homer off Aroldis Chapman (0-2) in the ninth inning as the White Sox won 3-1.

Anderson was booed during pregame introductions and prior to each at-bat in the nightcap. He had already hit two singles when he homered over the right field wall with two outs in the eighth. Anderson took a slow trot and put his hands to his lips in a shushing gesture as he rounded the bases. He clapped his hands several times upon crossing home plate and pointed skyward before again making a silencing motion.

Before the five-run eighth, the story was White Sox starter Michael Kopech, who retired the first 17 batters he faced on just 60 pitches before Rob Brantly doubled to left field. Kopech (1-1) allowed just the one hit and two walks while striking out six over seven innings.

Yankees starter Luis Severino scattered eight hits over seven scoreless innings. Jonathan Loaisiga (1-2) lost in relief.

Aaron Judge's eighth-inning homer off Kendall Graveman (1-1) cost Johnny Cueto a win in the opener. The resurgent 36-year-old righty allowed six hits, walked two and struck out five in his second major league outing of the season. Liam Hendriks struck out two in a perfect ninth.

AP

Chicago White Sox's Tim Anderson gestures while running the bases after hitting a three-run home run off New York Yankees relief pitcher Miguel Castro in the eighth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader, Sunday, May 22, 2022, in New York.

Cardinals 18, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Albert Pujols hit two homers to boost his career total to 683, then caught the warmup tosses when catcher Yadier Molina made his first pitching appearance to close out St. Louis' 18-4 romp over Pittsburgh.

Molina gave up homers to Yoshi Tsutsugo and Jack Suwinski and four runs while working the ninth inning, eventually completing the Cardinals' three-game sweep. But it was not all fun and games for St. Louis. Starter Steven Matz lasted only four pitches before being pulled with stiffness in his left shoulder.

After Matz exited, Angel Rondón (1-0) entered to strike out Ke'Bryan Hayes with his first pitch. Rondón allowed just one hit in five innings for his first win in the majors, striking out four and walking three.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit a 443-foot leadoff home run and Mike Trout added a solo shot while getting three hits and two RBIs in Los Angeles' victory over Oakland.

Patrick Sandoval (3-1) struck out seven as he pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning for the Angels, who won the final two games of the weekend series after a four-game skid. Raisel Iglesias pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Ohtani hit his ninth home run on Cole Irvin's second pitch, and Trout added an RBI single in the second and his 12th homer in the seventh. Trout, who also doubled in the first, struck out in the eighth to fall a triple short of the cycle for the second time in six days.

Phillies 4, Dodgers 3, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Max Muncy's two-run fielding error in the 10th capped a wild late-inning sequence and allowed Philadelphia to beat Los Angeles.

With two outs and men on second and third in the 10th, Alec Bohm hit a little dribbler off Evan Phillips (1-2) to Muncy at second for what appeared to be the final out of the inning. But Muncy didn't field it cleanly, allowing Garrett Stubbs to score the tying run and Roman Quinn to bring in the winning run just ahead of the throw home.

Stubbs had hit his first major league homer to get Philadelphia on the board in the sixth. The Phillies had tied it with two outs in the ninth on Jean Segura's single to left that scored Nick Castellanos, whose two-out double started the rally.

Red Sox 8, Mariners 4, 10 innings

In Boston, Franchy Cordero hit a grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the 10th, lifting surging Boston past Seattle.

Trevor Story continued his recent power surge with his fifth homer over the Green Monster in four days and Christian Arroyo added a solo shot for Boston, which posted its season-high fifth straight victory and completed a four-game sweep over Seattle.

Mets 2, Rockies 0

In Denver, Francisco Lindor broke a scoreless tie with a single in the sixth inning, Taijuan Walker and three relievers combined on a six-hitter and New York extended its streak of rebounding from losses by beating Colorado.

The Mets dropped the second game of a doubleheader Saturday, which led to them win their franchise-best 14th straight game following a loss. By taking two of three, New York also captured its 11th series win this season.

Orioles 7, Rays 6, 11 innings

In Baltimore, Rougned Odor had his second game-winning at-bat in three days as Baltimore edged Tampa Bay.

The Orioles won two of three and won a series against Tampa Bay for the first time since July 31–Aug. 2, 2020, when Baltimore managed a three-game sweep at home.

The Orioles trailed 6-4 in the ninth before Austin Hays managed a pinch-hit, two-out, two-run RBI single off Ryan Thompson, who earlier was charged with a balk that moved two runners into scoring position. Then, a thunderstorm delayed the game for 51 minutes.

Padres 10, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Manny Machado set a career high and matched a franchise record with four extra-base hits, and surging San Diego completed a three-game sweep of San Francisco.

On a day when every San Diego starter had at least one hit and San Francisco used outfielder Luis González to pitch, Machado's big afternoon included three doubles, a triple and two RBIs. The five-time All-Star was also intentionally walked. He's the eighth player in Padres history to have four extra-base hits in one game.

Marlins 4, Braves 3

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara pitched a six-hitter and Miami beat Atlanta.

The 26-year-old-Alcantara (4-2) limited the Braves to three unearned runs and six hits. He walked two and struck out seven for his fourth career complete game. Atlanta star outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. had two of the hits against Alcantara, extending his on-base streak to 29 games.

Travis d'Arnaud's at-bat to lead off the ninth was extended after Miami first baseman Jesús Aguilar dropped a popup. D'Arnaud doubled and scored on Ozzie Albies' double to make it 4-2. Albies advanced to third on a fly out to right and scored on Austin Riley's RBI groundout. Alcantara got Dansby Swanson on a pop-up to catcher Jacob Stallings to complete his 115-pitch outing.

Reds 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Cincinnati avoided a three-game sweep.

The one-run win was the second of the season for the Reds. Cincinnati has won nine of 15 following a 3-22 start.

Toronto failed to complete a sweep after winning the first two games of a series for the fourth time this season and the second time this homestand. The Blue Jays dropped last Wednesday's series finale to Seattle after victories Monday and Tuesday.

Astros 5, Rangers 2

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit his fifth leadoff home run of the season and a double, José Urquidy tied a career high with 10 strikeouts and Houston defeated Texas.

Urquidy (4-1) allowed six hits and one run in a season-high 6 2/3 innings as the Astros won for the third time in this four-game series. Urquidy improved to 4-0 in five career starts against the Rangers and has won three straight games overall.

Blake Taylor gave up a single to Kole Calhoun to start the ninth before plunking Mitch Garver, who homered earlier. He was replaced by closer Ryan Pressly with one out and Sam Huff singled to load the bases. Brad Miller lined a single to center field to score Calhoun and cut the lead to 5-2.

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Chicago, Patrick Wisdom and Frank Schwindel hit consecutive homers against Ian Kennedy in the eighth inning, and Chicago edged Arizona to avoid a four-game series sweep.

Wisdom had a bouncer go just foul right before he connected for his ninth homer, sending a leadoff drive deep to center field. Schwindel then drove a 1-0 pitch from Kennedy (3-3) into the bleachers in left for his fourth homer. Schwindel and Wisdom also hit back-to-back homers during Chicago's 7-6 loss on Saturday.

P.J. Higgins drove in three runs with his first career triple for Chicago. Keegan Thompson (4-0) worked three innings of one-run ball for the win for the Cubs, who had dropped four in a row, including blowing a 4-0 lead Saturday.

Tigers 4, Guardians 2

In Cleveland, rookie Alex Faedo allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings for his first major league win and Miguel Cabrera had an RBI double as Detroit topped Cleveland.

Faedo (1-1) struck out two in his fourth appearance since being called up from Triple-A Toledo on May 4. The right-hander missed all of 2021 after undergoing Tommy John surgery and began this season at Class A Lakeland.

Cabrera's double in the first inning scored Robbie Grossman and was the 603rd of his career, tying Cal Ripken Jr. for 16th all-time. It was his 3,022nd career hit, one short of Lou Brock in the 28th spot.

Javier Báez added a solo homer in the eighth for the Tigers, who snapped a three-game skid and are 5-4 since falling a season-low 14 games below .500 on May 12. Gregory Soto pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Nationals 8, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Lane Thomas hit two RBI doubles and Washington broke out of its hitting slump in a victory over Milwaukee, which lost Freddy Peralta to shoulder tightness in the fourth inning.

Peralta (3-2) left after allowing a run-scoring double to Thomas during the Nationals' six-run outburst in the fourth inning. That marked the Nationals' highest-scoring inning of the season and matched the biggest run total the Brewers had allowed in a single inning this year.

The Nationals entered the day having dropped seven of their past nine, and they had scored a total of six runs in the seven losses. But they had an early 8-0 lead Sunday and cruised to the win.

Twins 7, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Mo., Gio Urshela hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning to complete Minnesota's comeback from a six-run deficit against Kansas City.

Down 6-0, the Twins scored five times in the eighth, capped by Kyle Garlick's two-run homer. Jorge Polanco drew a leadoff walk from Josh Staumont (1-1) in the ninth, Max Kepler doubled and Gary Sanchez tied it with his second sacrifice fly in two innings. With two outs, Urshela singled for the lead.

Reliever Tyler Duffey (2-2) got the win and Jhoan Duran pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Justin Thomas takes PGA from uninspiring to unforgettable

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Justin Thomas wrapped his arms around the 27-pound Wanamaker Trophy after winning his second PGA Championship, and thousands of fans ringing the 18th green amid the setting sun at Southern Hills showered him in adulation.

Good thing they woke up in time for his Sunday charge.

For nearly four full days, the year's second major had been a major snooze, the cast atop the leaderboard a list mostly made up of also-rans searching for a moment stardom. The golf itself was unspectacular, too, as everyone from Abraham Ancer to Tiger Woods ground their way around a Perry Maxwell classic that was both forbidding and unforgiving.

Heck, even the eventual champ shanked one off the tee on Sunday.

"Just cold shanked it," Thomas said. "Don't really know how else to say it. It was the best bogey I've ever made in my life."

Cameron Young tried to move up the leaderboard during the final round, then left his chances of victory in a fairway bunker on the 16th hole. Will Zalatoris hung on for life as iron shots found creeks and shrubs and very little short grass. Chile's Mito Pereira had a career-changing moment staring him in the face until a fateful shot on the 18th hole.

That's about the time the PGA Championship went from uninspiring to unbelievable.

AP

Justin Thomas holds the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament in s playoff against Will Zalatoris at Southern Hills Country Club, Sunday, May 22, 2022, in Tulsa, Okla.

Pereira's shot into the creek off the tee on the 490-yard finishing hole led to a double bogey, not only robbing him of the most unexpected of major championships — and the $2.7 million winner's purse, lifetime spot in the tournament and all the other baubles — but keeping him out of the three-hole aggregate playoff to decide the thing.

Thomas had rattled off a couple of birdies on the back side before an up-and-down for birdie at the 17th, moving him to 5 under and within a shot of the lead. And he hit a brilliant shot to within 15 feet at the 18th to set up another birdie, only to watch the putt that in the moment he thought he needed for a playoff go skating past the hole.

The crowd around the green, now fully invested in the goings-on, let out a collective groan.

"The leaders could have shot 3- or 4-under today, and like, I could have grinded and made a couple more birdies and look at the leaderboard on 18 and I'm four or five back," Thomas said later. "I just was trying to birdie every hole I could."

Coming up behind him, Zalatoris had finally wrangled his renegade irons in time to make birdie at the 17th, getting him back to 5 under. He never gave himself a chance for birdie at 18, instead making a nervy 8-footer to stay there.

"I always felt like I was one, two, three back," Zalatoris said, "and then once I saw Mito hit into the water on 18, I know that putt that I was going to have on 18 was probably to get into a playoff. So I will bottle that putt on 18 for the future."

Thomas and Zalatoris watched Pereira come undone and then headed back out for the playoff.

After the two matched birdies at the 13th hole, Thomas showed the kind of calm that comes with having been in such a situation before, ripping his tee shot onto the green at the 308-yard 17th. He made a two-putt birdie while Zalatoris could only manage par, sending the 2017 PGA champ to the 18th again — this time with a one-shot lead of his own.

UOG

From Page 20

and possibly offer opportunities for young adults in the NMI to further their education and play for UOG Athletics whether it's baseball or any other sports we have to offer…[we're looking for] hard-working and passionate ball players," he said.

Alcantara said those interested in joining the baseball clinics will have to bring their own baseball equipment. He added that the first 25 who sign up get to take home for free a limited edition Triton Athletics T-shirt plus other prizes.

Saipan Baseball League president Jay Santos encouraged the islands' youth baseball players to attend the baseball clinic hosted by UOG.

"I'm very pleased to see representatives from the University of Guam Tritons Baseball Team will come to Saipan to conduct a baseball clinic and possibly recruit players for their squad. I've always been a proponent of furthering education and if some of our youth can do so with baseball then all the better. We've seen a number of our baseball players move to the mainland to play baseball and go to college. We have some very talented baseball players and SBL hopes to provide more opportunities in the near future. Thank you very much to the UOG Tritons and we appreciate you taking the time to come to Saipan," he said.

Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice president A.J. Murig, meanwhile, thanked Alcantara and the rest of his staff in the UOG Triton Baseball Team for holding the baseball clinic on island.

"I want to thank coach Roke and his staff for having this clinic here on Saipan for our youths to participate in, gain some skills, and most importantly learn about the opportunities that UOG and the Triton family have to offer. As you know, we have many, many talented and skilled players here on Saipan that have gone to further their education and at the same time continue with their baseball careers in college and this is a great opportunity for our youths that plan to continue on to college and further their careers in baseball."

Public School System Athletic Programs director Nick Gross joined Santos and Murig's call for the CNMI's youth to take advantage of this opportunity not only to improve their baseball skills but also possibly get a free college education in the process.

"After more than four years going without baseball in the CNMI, the opportunity presented by UOG for our student athletes to continue their education and pursue collegiate athletics is huge! I look forward to strengthening our partnership and creating more options for student athletes throughout the CNMI!"

For more information about UOG's Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics, contact Alcantara at 671-747-4759 or UOG athletics director Douglas Palmer at 671-735-2862 or palmerd@triton.uog.org.

SBL

From Page 20

players who are now tasked to defend the gold medal the CNMI won the last time baseball was played in the Pacific Games, which was 2009 in New Caledonia.

"Coach Manny and his staff have selected a very talented final roster, albeit there were some very difficult decisions to be made with the final cut. This squad is strong defensively and is capable of producing runs as their hitting will be great. We will be very competitive with our pitching and I expect our defense will be superior when the Mini Games begin. The entire team has worked very hard to get into great baseball shape and I am very thankful to our final roster of players and all of those who tried out for the team for the time, effort, and sacrifice they've put in," he said.

Santos also acknowledged that trimming the roster down to 20 was probably one of the toughest decisions Sablan, head coach Derron Sablan, and assistant coach Gary Cruz had to make in their careers. It can be recalled that nearly 60 players showed up during tryouts before the field was cut to 36 and then before the final cuts, the roster stood at 25 including five alternates.

"I wish we could've gone with a roster of 25 players as the final cuts were tough. This whole process reminded me that we have some very talented baseball players on island. This being the first time a tryout was conducted to put together the squad it was taxing on the coaching staff, players, and their families. In the end, we firmly believe we will field the CNMI's best baseball players for the Pacific Mini Games," he said.

Aside from Sablan and the coaching staff, the national team also had Joey Tudela serve as its strength and conditioning coach and brought in CNMI Hall of Famer Chris Nelson as pitching coach.

Baseball, which will be played at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, has five countries throwing their hats in the ring and they are Fiji with 18, Guam with 20, Palau with 20, Solomon Islands with 18, and the aforementioned Northern Marianas with 20.

KOREAN

From Page 20

en's basketball player Kim Kyung-Hee, has a passion for the sport and he also wants their children—Seon-Woo, Yeon-Woo, and Eun-woo—to share their mother's love for basketball.

"In the beginning, my wife retired from the national basketball team and was teaching the children. It was my first experience teaching basketball to my children because I was tired [helping her] during [the] pregnancy. At that time, I was a general salesperson in charge of the planning part of a construction company," he said.

From there, Oh said his vision for the then fledgling ATB expanded to what is now a 4,000-player strong basketball academy.

"What I started as a business is to develop the world for the better with the basketball academy as an opportunity. We want to let the general public and students experience the world [that is] experienced by elite sportsmen. We have a system suitable for that and we are developing it," he added.

Oh said also shared his long-term plans in his expansion to the island that includes the building of the aforementioned basketball training facility.

"We plan to build a large-scale, state-of-the-art facility to collect Saipan basketball [talent] in one place. Sports advances through competition. To compete, there must be a lot of people who love basketball, and to do that, you need a suitable facility."

With the basketball training facility in place, Oh then plans to improve the state of basketball in the U.S. territory with the help of ATB's high-level coaches and trainers.

Oh added that Saipan's tropical climate seems to jive with the locals' love for basketball.

"I felt the passion the most. Saipan is a hot country. The community has a passion for basketball that matches it."

Unlike South Korea where basketball training is more systematic, Oh noticed that there's more autonomy in the way learning basketball on Saipan.

"Do-it-yourself basketball can be a little more creative. It's different from Korean basketball, which is systematic and has a fixed rotation. It is expected that the two countries can develop each other's basketball [culture] through these exchanges."

Diaz, for his part, welcomes Oh and ABT's plan to expand to Saipan and said he and his organization will help them fulfil their plans to branch out of South Korea. Aside from the 670 Rollers Elite Basketball Club founder and head coach, Oh also met with the club's coaches Marlene Lumabi and Leo Naraja. Oh was accompanied in the meeting by his local liaison, James Kim.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	12	.707	
Tampa Bay	24	17	.585	5
Toronto	22	19	.537	7
Boston	19	22	.463	10
Baltimore	17	25	.405	12½

Central Division

Minnesota	25	16	.610	
Chicago	21	20	.512	4
Cleveland	17	20	.459	6
Detroit	14	26	.350	10½
Kansas City	14	26	.350	10½

West Division

Houston	27	15	.643	
Los Angeles	26	17	.605	1½
Texas	18	22	.450	8
Seattle	17	25	.405	10
Oakland	17	26	.395	10½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	28	15	.651	
Atlanta	19	22	.463	8
Philadelphia	19	22	.463	8
Miami	18	22	.450	8½
Washington	14	28	.333	13½

Central Division

Milwaukee	26	15	.634	
St. Louis	23	18	.561	3
Chicago	16	24	.400	9½
Pittsburgh	16	24	.400	9½
Cincinnati	12	28	.300	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	27	13	.675	
San Diego	27	14	.659	½
San Francisco	22	18	.550	5
Arizona	21	22	.488	7½
Colorado	19	21	.475	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wiggins, Warriors dunk Mavericks 109-100 for 3-0 series lead

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Justin Thomas takes PGA from uninspiring to unforgettable

PAGE 19

SBL finalizes 20-man Mini Games team

MARK RABAGO

The final 20 players of the CNMI National Baseball Team pose with their coaches and umpires before their inter-squad scrimmage last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Baseball League has released its final 20-man roster for the CNMI National Baseball Team that seeks to maintain the Commonwealth's baseball supremacy in the region for next month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The team is headlined by former University of West Alabama Tigers pitcher Josh Jones. Joining Jones in the pitching staff are J.P. Sablan, Franko Nakamura, Lorenzo Sabklim, and Jacob Babauta.

The team's outfielders, meanwhile, include Ben Jones Jr., Tyrone Omar, Anthony Tenorio, and Juan Iguel. The infielders are Byron Kaipat, Darion Jones, Shane Yamada, Diego Camacho, A.J. Lizama, Lamarc Iguel, Nokki Saralu, Dennis Cabrera, Patrick Alepuyo, Jerald Cabrera, and Keoni Lizama.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

SBL president Jay Santos commended team manager Manny Sablan and his staff for assembling the islands' best baseball

See SBL on Page 19

S. Korean basketball academy eyes Saipan expansion

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A basketball academy based in Gangnam, South Korea wants to expand to Saipan by building a state-of-the-art basketball training facility on the island.

All That Basket Basketball Academy CEO Oh Se Ho, who is on island with his family, last week met with 670 Rollers Elite Basketball Club founder and head coach Joe Diaz for exploratory talks on his plans of setting up shop in the CNMI.

ATB ALL THAT BASKET

"I am trying to create an international basketball organization. Not only some elite players, but all students who love basketball to have the opportunity to participate in international competitions and if they experience it, I think it will be of great help in their lives," said Oh.

The ATB founder said that his academy is fortunate to partner with Diaz and his 670 Rollers Elite Basketball Club for their expansion plans in the Commonwealth. "I think 670 Rollers Elite is a good partner to start with. They have a good attitude, a sense of challenge, and maintain a lot of networks."

Oh shared that he started ATB because his wife, former Korean national wom-

See KOREAN on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

All That Basket Basketball Academy CEO Oh Se Ho, rightmost, poses with his family after meeting with 670 Rollers Elite Basketball Club founder and head coach Joe Diaz, second right, and his coaching staff at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

UOG to host baseball clinic on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The University of Guam will be holding a two-day baseball clinic at the Capitol Hill Softball Field this coming Thursday, May 26, and Friday, May 27, from 5pm to 8pm.

Triton Baseball Team head coach Roke Alcantara said "Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics" is open to high school students ages 16 years old and above. He added that aside from hosting the baseball clinic, they're also looking for players to attend UOG and to be a part of their sports teams and programs.

Alcantara

"Our Athletic Department here at UOG would like to extend our efforts to educate

See UOG on Page 19